

# JACOB

Be patient - God hasn't finished with me yet

## 6. Jacob's Great Bananaskin

Genesis 29:1-30

### 1. A New Believer's Mistake

- Jacob puts trust in God – all going well
- But all is about to go wrong – 3 mistakes Jacob made

#### a) He relies on his own abilities

- Where is God in all of this? No mention
- Thinks he can cope with this himself
- Classic mistake of new Christians (and old ones too)

#### b) He forgets to pray

- Compare Gen 24 – What's missing? Prayer and worship
- God promises, God provides, but we need to respond
- How's your prayer life?

#### c) He is driven by his desires

- Rachel is beautiful. Jacob guided by testosterone not God
- v21 – all he has been thinking about
- If we let our desires drive us we will crash and be hurt

### 2. A Master Deceiver's Snare

- Laban is a master deceiver – meet him 1<sup>st</sup> in Gen 24:30
- Pounces on Jacob's ridiculous offer & doesn't reveal customs
- Jacob at fault, but the trap was well planned
- Need to learn to see the arch-deceiver Satan at work

#### a) He appears kind, but seeks control of you

#### b) Nothing is ever short-term – always long term consequences

#### c) Disillusionment always results, not fulfilment

#### d) When we get what we want, he ruins the enjoyment

#### e) His aim is to hurt, not delight

- Two masters, one offers short term gain, but brings poison and hurt, the other (Jesus) offers long term gain and delight.
- What bait are you taking?

### 3. Disciplined by a Loving God

- Not rescued – Jacob being taught vital lessons
- v26 – a piercing answer
- Passage full of parallels to Jacob's own cheating
- Lesson 1 – When you leave God out you are easy prey
- Lesson 2 – When you leave God out, you reap what you sow
- Lesson 3 – No more cheating – old habits being removed
- God disciplines us for our own good to make us more Christ-like



new life fellowship

SERVING JESUS CHRIST THE KING

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Sabbath 12th October 08

### Notices

|                      |  |       |
|----------------------|--|-------|
| Sab 12th             | Evening meeting at Mark & Judith's Prayer Time   | 8pm   |
| Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> | Donegal Christian Women's Conference<br>"Heaven Scent" – Linda Basdeo (Irish Bible Institute)<br>Jackson's Hotel – Ballybofey<br>Forms available – cost of day €35 |       |
| Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> | Presbytery Youth Event - Stranorlar Team Challenge!  | 8pm   |
| Nov 15 <sup>th</sup> | Book and TearCraft evening in Milford  | 7-9pm |

### continued:

#### Conclusion

- Learn from Jacob before it's too late
- The only way out of the snare is to change places with one who will face the deceiver for you.
- Jesus offers to take on the deceiver, to set us free, clean us up and bring us home, to keep his promises, to bring fulfilment
- We may have consequences to face in life, but better with God than without

Sabbath 19th - When God's love breaks into a family - Genesis 29:31-30:24

Opening Psalm: 86A:1-6

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