

JACOB

7. When God comes into the mess

Genesis 29:31-30:24

Be patient - God hasn't finished with me yet

1. A Hurtful Mess

- 11 kids, 4 wives, 1 man – envy, anger, frustration, resentment
- Leah – a victim of others and her desires

a) A victim of others

- v30 – not loved by her husband (lit 'hated/despised')
- Lonely, practically abandoned by her husband
- Taunted by Rachel – v6,8

b) A victim of her desires

- Leah bases her happiness in her husband – seen in names v31-34
- Rachel bases her happiness on having children – 30:1,14
- When desires aren't met deep unhappiness comes

2. A Loving God

- v31 "When God saw Leah was not loved He opened her womb" - He loved
- Into this ugly mess God comes with tenderness and gentleness
- God's love isn't based on how beautiful we are, or how tidy our lives are
- God's love is a transforming love – look at name of 4th child
 - Leah no longer basing her happiness on Jacob
 - She has placed her happiness in God's care
- God's love brings significance – Leah the ancestor of Jesus
- In Jesus we find this transforming love that gives significance, which doesn't depend on how good we are.

3. A Wasted Grace?

- Leah falters – v9-19 – forgets her lesson
- Happiness dependant on circumstances not God
- God's aim is not our happiness, but our holiness
- If we don't fight our desires they choke the grace God gives, and we slide back into the mess
- How has God dealt graciously with you?
- Are you wasting God's gracious dealings with you? Forgetting lessons?

4. A Sovereign God

- God saw v31; God heard v33; God listened v17; God remembered v22
- Mandrakes don't do it – God does v17
- No mess is too great for him to bring good out of - Not a licence to sin!
- Comfort when we find ourselves in less than ideal circumstances
- God is sovereign over heartache and chaos
- Ultimate proof – Amidst the heartache of Calvary God was working good
- When you trust Jesus you will find he brings good out of heartache
- Keep trusting him and follow his desire, not yours



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S E R V I N G J E S U S C H R I S T T H E K I N G

www.newlifefellowship.ie - part of the reformed presbyterian church of ireland

Sabbath 19th October 08

Notices

Sab 19 th	Evening meeting at Day Centre A God who blesses Jacobs - Gen 30:25-43	8pm
Tue	Bible Study - 4th Commandment Venue: _____	8pm
Thurs 30 th	Donegal Night of Prayer 7.00-11.00pm The house behind the Open Door Bookshop The night will be divided into ½ hour sections Come when you can, leave when you need to	
Nov 15 th	Book and TearCraft evening in Milford	7-9pm

Christianity

Explored



'Christianity Explored' is a 6-week course designed to let you find out for yourself the facts about Jesus and to find answers to questions you may have about Jesus, the Bible or Christianity.

- You don't need to know anything about the Bible
- You won't be asked to read, pray or answer questions
- You will be given every opportunity to ask your own questions
- It can be done either as a group, or individually - your choice.



If you're interested in finding out more speak to Mark

Sabbath 26th - Homeward Bound - Genesis 31

Opening Psalm: 87

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