

Genesis 29.1-30

The Bitter Taste of your Own Medicine

China Village, Strange sights: Blue Sky, Trees, Birds, Rivers, Water Buffalo

Gen 29: PASTORAL Scene – Shepherds, Sheep, Gathered at Watering Hole

4000 yr old Story but VERY RELEVANT to our 21st Cent LIFE in Beijing today

1. Love at First Sight

a. Mission Jacob went on MISSION – FIND a WIFE from BACK HOME

Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him and commanded him: "Do not marry a Canaanite woman. Go at once to Paddan Aram, to the house of your mother's father Bethuel. Take a wife for yourself there, from among the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother" Genesis 28.1,2

Sounds like WORD Some of YOU got from FAMILIES BACK HOME!

“OK to Study in BJ -- but MARRY someone from HOME!”

MANY of YOU have come from CHRISTIAN FAMILIES back HOME

JACOB had GODLY Family too > Born with COVENANT BLESSING

God JUST Renewed COVENANT: VISION of Ladder to Heaven @ Bethel

"I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac...I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Genesis 28.12-15

So this Man who WORE the PROMISE of God NOW looks for a LADY

b. Meeting Point Today meet LOVE Mandarin classes, Internet, Malls, ZGC!

WATER Hole was CENTRAL Meeting Place of VILLAGE

NEED for Water was CRITICAL Water in that ARID LAND

JACOB went there to try to FIND his FAMILY MEMBERS

OUT of all the Wells in VAST LAND – God led Jacob to THIS SPOT..

vs. 5,6 "Do you know Laban, Nahor's grandson?" "Yes, we know him," they answered. 6 Then Jacob asked them, "Is he well?" "Yes, he is," they said, "and *here comes his daughter Rachel* with the sheep."

WOW! Here SHE COMES! So HOT the WATER Started BOILING!

v. 17 Rachel was lovely in form, and beautiful.

ONLY Woman called SHEPHERDESS in the BIBLE > Not EASY JOB

NOT FRILLY DRESS Job – Beautiful & BUFF, BOOTS & Blue Jeans

MOSES met his WIFE – also Shepherdess – Helping Water their SHEEP

Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came and drew water and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. The shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and saved them, and watered their flock. When they came home to their father Reuel, he said, "How is it that you have come home so soon today?" They said, "An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds and even drew water for us and watered the flock." He said to his daughters, "Then where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread." Exodus 2.16-21

3rd Covenant PATRIARCH led by Faithful God...

vs. 2,3 ...he saw a well in the field, and behold, three flocks of sheep lying beside it, for out of that well the flocks were watered. The stone on the well's mouth was large, and when all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would roll the stone from the mouth of the well and water the sheep, and put the stone back in its place over the mouth of the well.

Lived in N.W. Uganda had 2 to 3 Months DRY Season, Every DROP Precious



Once Jacob FALLS for Beautiful RACHEL wants some TIME ALONE w/ Her JACOB not INTERESTED in GROUP Date --- tries to get Guys back to Fields "Look," he said, "the sun is still high; it is not time for the flocks to be gathered. Water the sheep and take them back to pasture." "We can't," they replied, "until all the flocks are gathered and the stone has been rolled away from the mouth of the well. Then we will water the sheep." Genesis 29.7,8

Many men will remember their courting days and recall how, when they wanted to be alone with their girl, her kid brother always seemed to be hanging around, and how it was often costly to get rid of him. "Here, Junior, why don't you take this quarter and go get yourself some ice cream?" "I like sundaes. They cost seventy-five cents." "All right, here's a dollar. Go stuff yourself with ice cream!" James Boice

Some Ancient PASTORAL COUNSEL from man who MARRIED Well!

c. Macho Manhood – Jacob does what they SHOULD have Done

v. 2 well in the field...three flocks of sheep lying beside it

THREE Flocks – 3 Sets of Shepherds lying around COULD have Rolled Stone

JACOB does not want to Stand in SUN SWEATING

Wants COOL DRINK with HOT BABE he just MET named RACHEL

So he DEFIES Local CUSTOMS – OPENS Water AHEAD of PROPER Time vs. 10, 11 Now as soon as Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, Jacob came near and rolled the stone from the well's mouth and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother. Then Jacob kissed Rachel and wept aloud.

Wow! I did NOT See THAT Coming NO LIMIT to what LOVE will DO!

With Extra-Ordinary Strength – Jacob Mama's Boy becomes SUPERMAN!

Watered SHEEP and at SAME TIME KISSED Rachel

1st ROMANTIC Details Bible: Adam/Eve, Abe/Sarah, Isaac/Rebekah, No Gossip

Very DRAMATIC and ROMANTIC Moment! – May seem RANDOM ACTS
 But ‘WATERED’ and ‘KISSED’ SAME Hebrew Consonants

Gives her WATER and a BIG WET KISS > ORIGIN of KISSING COUSINS
 Only time in Bible man kisses WOMAN that is NOT his WIFE or MOTHER

In TRUTH his MOUTH was Probably Watering for HER AND the FLOCKS
 Rachel’s FATHER LABAN comes RUNNING – Who kissed my Daughter??
 FAMILY on Another CONTINENT will RUN to Beijing if YOU’re Not Careful!

v. 13 As soon as Laban heard the news about Jacob, his sister's son, he hurried to meet him. He embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his home...

KISSES all AROUND > Surprised moved to KZ Russian Men were Kissing Me

Does LOVE at First Sight LAST? Jacob’s Did!

Decades later, Dying Jacob BLESSING to Son JOSEPH....

As for me, when I came from Paddan, to my sorrow Rachel died in the land of Canaan on the way, when there was still some distance to go to Ephrath, and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).” Genesis 48.7

What does this have TO DO with Patriarch’s Blessing son Joseph? NOTHING!

HEART Full: Joseph’s FACE probably Reminded Jacob LATE Mother Rachel

Many things NOT Exemplary in Jacob’s Life > Commend him for LOYAL Love

Their TRUE LOVE Survived DEATH > Great Sadness to lose Beloved SPOUSE

2. Lover who was Forgotten

a. Family Uncle LABAN comes RUNNING – GREEDY Character 100 yrs ago

Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban. Laban ran out toward the man, to the spring. As soon as he saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister's arms ... He said, "Come in, O blessed of the LORD. Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house and a place for the camels." Genesis 24.29-31

Tricky Laban knows, even before he has seen Jacob, that a workman is on his way who is worth his weight in gold. J.P. Fokkelman

To be Fair: Almost 100 yrs perhaps NO NEWS of SISTER Rebekah, his MOM

SADISTICALLY Prophetic v. 14 Laban said to him, "Surely you are my bone and my flesh!"

TITANS of TREACHERY – Same Blood thru Veins – SOON would BATTLE

b. Feelings v. 18 Jacob loved Rachel

JACOB was OUT THERE – Emotionally VERNERABLE said "I Love You!"

Beautiful RACHEL has ROLLED AWAY the Stone of TRICKSTER'S HEART

Besides her LOVELY APPEARANCE > Jacob KNOWS Nothing about Rachel

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Proverbs 31.30

Read of Rachel's Beauty > NOT that she is woman who FEARS GOD

He's SELLS himself as a MACHO Man NOT Man on MISSION for God

v. 13 Jacob told him all these things – STRANGELY Ambiguous Phrase

Did he Tell Laban how Stole Brother's Birthright and Blessing??

He & Mom (Laban's Sis, Rebekah) pulled BIG Trick on Old, Blind Dad Isaac?

PROBABLY did NOT Tell him all those EMBARRASSING Details

Did Jacob tell Laban was 3rd Covenant Patriarch, Servant of True, Living God?
 His God – Maker of Heaven & Earth – Promised whole Earth blessed thru him?
 Descendants MANY as STARS of Sky & SANDS on Seashore? Probably NOT

These THINGS? Really Tired, Long Walk, Blisters, Terrible Internet Reception

Bible NOT tell us HOW Rachel (or Leah) felt toward JACOB

Was it PAIN of UNREQUITED Love? Jacob was Out There / Rachel SILENT

Here we are PEOPLE of God – Meeting NEW People in NEW City

Are we MACHO Men or MEN on MISSION for a MIGHTY God

Have we HIDDEN our Light UNDER a BUSHEL? Or is it SHINING!

My Wife always says “I am Dayna and I am a Christian” Crystal Clear, Yikes!!

Now Pastor – Is that a Real Job? – Used to have Real Jobs, always said:

“I will work hard, I will work late, but I must go to church on Sundays!”

It made the EMPLOYER MORE willing to HIRE ME! Never LACKED!

If you don't get Jesus OUT There soon in Friendship, Relationship, Job, School

It will be a BIG SHOCK Later – Caught in Situation you are Trapped In!

When you DO get to JESUS they'll feel like you BAIT & SWITCHED them

Sometimes we are tempted to abandon the way of faith because it seems unlikely to work. It appears that honesty is not the best policy. So we turn instead to human strategy and manipulation. But if you take on the world at its own game, you'll almost invariably be outdone. There are plenty of Uncle Labans out there.

Iain Duguid

c. Future

Isaac's DAD Abe sent 10 Camels laded with LOOT to get him a WIFE

But ISAAC sent PROMISED Son JACOB on Wife Search EMPTY Handed

SMITTEN by LOVE – Like Country/Western Song “Life Empty without You”

Jacob was WILLING to PAY with BLOOD, SWEAT, and TEARS!

v. 18 Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.”

Ancient Near Eastern culture > BRIDE Price was 30 to 40 sheckles

Shepherds WAGE – 10 Sheckles a YEAR / Lover Boy will pay TOP DOLLAR

Jacob NOT Interested in MONEY > Found PRICELESS Prize of GOOD Wife

d. Forgotten Faithful One

Name NEVER Mentioned: GOD - yet Jacob was FRESH from Mtg in BETHEL

Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you.” Genesis 28.20-22

Jacob made DEAL not Prayer – Give me ALL I NEED & I will give you 10%

Taken by Merciful & Gracious God > He was getting MORE than he NEEDED

God's Providence – God's Promise to be WITH him – PROVEN to be TRUE

STONE > Been Jacob's PILLOW, he made a PILLAR to POINT to God

Failed see STONE over Water Hole also Pointed to God's Providential Provision

The former rock speaks of God's presence, this rock speaks of Jacob's strength.

Bruce Waltke

Just 5 chs earlier: Genesis 24 (Longest) – Obtaining a WIFE for PRINCELING
 Story of Abraham’s servant going to SAME FAMILY > WIFE for Papa ISAAC
 Abe’s Servant WATCHES if Chosen Wife is Servant: Rebekah Water Camels
 Jacob Not Spiritually Alert, Gets Water for Woman, all he knows is her LOOKS
 RADICAL Difference in Searches > Abe’s Servant was ALL ABOUT GOD
 Sent Out by Prayer of Abe, Servant Sought Sign from God, Servant Praised God
 Same Family – Almost Century Earlier – Forced to ADMIT God’s REALITY

Laban and Bethuel answered and said, “The thing has come from the LORD; we cannot speak to you bad or good. Behold, Rebekah is before you; take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master’s son, as the LORD has spoken.”

Genesis 24.50,51

Jacob at Well WEEPS tears of Pent up EMOTION – Long, Agonizing, Journey
 But Jacob offers NO PRAISE to God, since Jacob had made No Petition to God
 Good sense wins favor, but the way of the treacherous is their ruin. Proverbs 13.15

Even if you do prevail through your ingenious schemes, as Jacob does in the end, the result is never *shalom*, harmony and peace in all your relationships, but bitter strife, enmity, and soured relationships with those around you. How many people have sought to win the world, in the world’s way, and have won – yet have paid the high price in broken and soured relationships with those closest to them? Honesty may not always be the best policy, as a policy, but dishonesty is always a miserable policy, even when it succeeds. Iain Duguid

3. Love that was Frustrated

a. Servant – Jacob NEVER worked FOR Anyone, becomes Laban’s SERVANT

v. 15 Then Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?”

Might SEEM like Laban is being Generous Relative: Hospitality AND Wages!

Really “Your Welcome WEARING OUT – Now you must DO Some WORK!”

Jacob's Life-Long IDENTITY all People SERVED him! – Mom, Dad, Brother
 God decreed at Birth: “the older shall serve the younger” Genesis 25.23

Jacob was PAMPERED PRINCELING, Terrible Example of 1 Child Policy

NOW big SHIFT: From CHOSEN SON to a COMMON SERVANT – 20 years!

Laban No MERCY even when UNDERSTANDS Jacob will soon be Son-in-Law

LOVING Father would Help NEW Family get Started in Life Prosperously

NOT a Warm, Fuzzy, Teddy-Bear Dad – Name Leah = Cow / Rachel = Sheep

So OLD CATTLE Trader sees Chance to CASH in on Domesticated Daughters

Rachel and Leah answered and said to him, “Is there any portion or inheritance left to us in our father's house? Are we not regarded by him as foreigners? For he has sold us, and he has indeed devoured our money. Genesis 31.14,15

b. Surprised

v. 19 Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.”

Uncle LABAN sees his IN to Love-Smitten Jacob, Note Ambiguity of word HER

In LABAN's Carefully worded CRAFTY Statement: “HER” is not Rachel

v. 21 Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.”

Rachel, probably 7 yrs Earlier YOUNG Girl - Jacob PATIENTLY LABORED

NOW she is in FULL FLOWER of her WOMANLY Beauty

This is the celebrated goal of the mysterious, magnetic attraction of romantic love, sung of in the Song of Songs. Bruce Waltke

Fateful Wedding Night: Waltke “Hebrew word for FEAST implies DRINKING”

Even if it was SOFT Drinks – Jacob was DRUNK with EXPECTANT LOVE

Jacob becomes BLIND like OLD Father ISAAC whom he had DECEIVED

v. 25 And in the morning, behold, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?”

Verse laded with POETIC IRONY – Welcome Jacob to Big Leagues of Deceit!

For 7 yrs FACE Jacob had DREAMED of was NOT LEAH! CRUEL Trick!!

Leah COVERED: BRIDAL Veil, Dark TENT // Jacob: Esau’s Coat & Skins

God shows JACOB that RIGHT of Firstborn must be RESPECTED too!

vs. 16,17 The name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were weak

NOT that Leah was CROSS-Eyed or WALL-eyed or LAZY Eye or BLIND

Lit. SOFT or DELICATE Eyes – Lacked Fire & Sparkle they Prized as Beauty

May have been Beautiful but OUT-SHINED by Younger Sister RACHEL

God REALLY got Jacob’s ATTENTION – HARD HEART Now BROKEN!

At this Moment he allows himself WEAKNESS he is BADLY WOUNDED

Feels PAIN of DECEIT

Laban ACTS OUTRAGED > Like Jacob had DONE the WRONG Thing!

v. 26 Laban said, “It is not so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn.

Anyone LIVED in Another CULTURE felt this PAIN of Misunderstanding

8 yrs in Africa – A.W.A. Africa Wins Again / Surprised by Unknown Culture

You STUPID Laowai – That is NOT how we DO THINGS here in our Country!

Jacob left to WONDER – Were Rachel and Leah IN on this CRUEL Trick too?

Maybe they HATED their CHEATING Father > Soon will BEHAVE like Him

Jacob deceived his father and was, in turn, deceived by his father in law. Jacob came as the elder to deceive Isaac, and now gets the elder daughter instead of the younger for his wife...a mercenary spirit actuated Jacob in buying the birthright of Esau for a mess of pottage, this mercenary spirit in Laban will cause him to change Jacob's wages ten times...Jacob deceived Isaac as his favorite son Esau while covered in goatskin, later Jacob's sons bring him the cloak of his favorite son Joseph covered in goat's blood....

A.W. Pink

Jacob is FEELING Sad Consequences of his own Bad Behavior

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

Galatians 6.7

c. Submissive v. 1 Then Jacob went on his journey...

lit. "he picked up his feet and went" CONFIDENT, JOYFUL Spring in Step

7 years PASSED – LONG and HARD years since LOVE SMITTEN by Rachel

NOW Feet stuck CONCRETE Block by Thug LABAN – thrown in East River!

6 WEEK Walk to Haran > ENCOUNTER with God along Way – BETHEL

Love for Rachel made 7 yrs seem like FEW DAYS BEFORE Wedding Shock

NOW it felt like LIFE SENTENCE of HARD LABOR in Haran Penitentiary

Slowly Seeing Transformation of Jacob TRICKSTER – Outshines Laban

Glimmers of Goodness – No Unkind Words or Actions toward LEAH

HARD Worker – Man of INTEGRITY, Keeps PROMISE even when Wronged

Works 7 MORE Hard Years for SECOND Daughter RACHEL

Does NOT Run Away – or Kill Laban – Keeps PROMISE even when HURTS!

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2.10

King David FELL into Arms of Beautiful Bathsheba / Murdered Noble Husband
His Rebellious Son Absalom staged COUP > Flees his PALACE in SHAME

...there came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei...as he came he cursed continually. And he threw stones at David and at all the servants of King... “Get out, get out, you man of blood, you worthless man! The LORD has avenged on you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned, and the LORD has given the kingdom into the hand of your son Absalom. See, your evil is on you, for you are a man of blood.”

Loyal GUARDS want to KILL DISRESPECTFUL SHIMEI, David says NO:

David: “If he is cursing because the LORD has said to him, ‘Curse David,’ who then shall say, ‘Why have you done so?... Leave him alone, and let him curse, for the LORD has told him to. It may be that the LORD will look on the wrong done to me, and that the LORD will repay me with good for his cursing today.’”

2 Samuel 16.5-8,10-12

Look to DAVID’S Son / David’s LORD > TRUE ISRAEL of God: Jesus Christ

Not Cheater like Jacob or Adulterous Murderer like David, Sinner like Me & U

David deserved the CURSES, Jacob EARNED his Painful Consequences

Jesus HOLY and SINLESS Son of God – became Fitting Savior for Sinners

Jesus ENDURED our Curses & Consequences being Nailed to the CROSS

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

Hebrews 5.7-9

Jesus came to give SALVATION to SINNERS by Active & Passive Obedience

DIED our DEATH & LIVED our LIFE > With its Misery and Misunderstanding

PRIEST who SYMPATHIZES – Not a Pampered Princeling

NOT a Bubble Boy from Heaven – Graduate of School of Hard Knocks

Halleluiah! What a Savior! COME to JESUS & Receive HIS True, Eternal LOVE

Genesis 29:¹Then Jacob went on his journey and came to the land of the people of the east. ²As he looked, he saw a well in the field, and behold, three flocks of sheep lying beside it, for out of that well the flocks were watered. The stone on the well's mouth was large, ³and when all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would roll the stone from the mouth of the well and water the sheep, and put the stone back in its place over the mouth of the well. ⁴Jacob said to them, "My brothers, where do you come from?" They said, "We are from Haran." ⁵He said to them, "Do you know Laban the son of Nahor?" They said, "We know him." ⁶He said to them, "Is it well with him?" They said, "It is well; and see, Rachel his daughter is coming with the sheep!" ⁷He said, "Behold, it is still high day; it is not time for the livestock to be gathered together. Water the sheep and go, pasture them." ⁸But they said, "We cannot until all the flocks are gathered together and the stone is rolled from the mouth of the well; then we water the sheep." ⁹While he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess. ¹⁰Now as soon as Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, Jacob came near and rolled the stone from the well's mouth and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother. ¹¹Then Jacob kissed Rachel and wept aloud. ¹²And Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's kinsman, and that he was Rebekah's son, and she ran and told her father. ¹³As soon as Laban heard the news about Jacob, his sister's son, he ran to meet him and embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his house. Jacob told Laban all these things, ¹⁴and Laban said to him, "Surely you are my bone and my flesh!" And he stayed with him a month. ¹⁵Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" ¹⁶Now Laban had two daughters. The name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance. ¹⁸Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." ¹⁹Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." ²⁰So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. ²¹Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." ²²So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. ²³But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. ²⁴(Laban gave his female

servant Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her servant.)²⁵ And in the morning, behold, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?”²⁶ Laban said, “It is not so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn.²⁷ Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.”²⁸ Jacob did so, and completed her week. Then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife.²⁹ (Laban gave his female servant Bilhah to his daughter Rachel to be her servant.)³⁰ So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah, and served Laban for another seven years.