

Genesis 29:31-30:24 - Unrelenting Grace that Redeems Dysfunction

Big Idea: God is faithful to keep his promises and fulfill his purposes by his unrelenting grace in the middle of our dysfunction.

Outline

1. **God's Kindness to Leah**
2. **The Rivalry Heats Up**
3. **God Shows His Mercy (Again)**

God's Kindness to Leah

29:31 - **When the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.**

[32] And Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben, for she said, "Because the LORD has looked upon my affliction; for now my husband will love me."

33 "Because the LORD has heard that I am hated, he has given me this son also." And she called his name Simeon.

34 "Now this time my husband will be attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." Therefore his name was called Levi.

"The human heart takes good things like a successful career, love, material possessions, even family, and turns them into ultimate things. Our hearts deify them as the center of our lives, because, we think, they can give us significance and security, safety and fulfillment, if we attain them." - Tim Keller

Diagnosing Your Idols

- *What is the thing that would make your life full if you could just get your hands on it?*
 - *What is the thing that you fear that if you lose it or never get it would destroy your life?*
 - *Whose approval makes your heart soar? Whose disapproval could crush you?*
 - *Where do you find refuge, safety, comfort, escape, pleasure, or security?*
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The Rivalry Heats Up

30:1 - **When Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she envied her sister. She said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I shall die!"**

[2] Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?"

[15] But she said to her, "Is it a small matter that you have taken away my husband? Would you take away my son's mandrakes also?" Rachel said, "Then he may lie with you tonight in exchange for your son's mandrakes."

God Shows His Mercy (Again)

17: **And God listened to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son.**

[22] Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb. [23] She conceived and bore a son and said, “God has taken away my reproach.” [24] And she called his name Joseph, saying, “May the LORD add to me another son!”

“If we only received when we got our prayers and motives all right, would we ever receive from the hand of God? Praise God that God hears, that He hears and interprets and answers cries from aching hearts that have trouble getting their motives straight.” - Ralph Davis

How do we need to respond?

1. Repent of your idolatry
2. Marvel at the providence of God
3. Rejoice in the extraordinary grace of Jesus