

Sermon Notes

May 3, 2015

**Jacob Chastened: Learning Slow**

Genesis 29:1-30 [28:10-15; 31:1-13; 32:9-12, 24-32]

**1. Jacob Our Ancestor in the Faith: His Historical Impact**

His new God-given name, “Israel,” becomes the name of God’s ancient people! (32:28)

**2. Jacob’s Early Life**

**i. An Unlovable, Unattractive Scoundrel**

self-centered, manipulative, narcissistic, back-stabbing, liar!!

**ii. Jacob Gets What He Wants But He Doesn’t! (27:27-29)**

(Like Macbeth with Duncan and the Scottish throne)

Can you think of parallel situations in our lives?

**iii. Jacob Pays For His Behavior All His Life**

a. 20 Years of exile (Genesis 28-33)

b. Jacob’s behavior repeated in his sons

Jealous of brother Joseph (37:1-36 )

Lying to father Jacob (37:31-35)

**3. Jacob’s Later Life: Changed**

**i. Jacob Remains Imperfect**

-- e.g., Favoritism of sons Joseph and Benjamin

**ii. Jacob Changes – Is Not the Same!**

-- Courageous (32:3-33:17 – returning to brother Esau)

-- Generous (28:20-22; 33:8-11 – though still a little manipulative?)

-- Prayerful and faithful (28:20-22; 31:11-13; 32:9-12, 24-32)

-- Respected by his sons (46-49)

**4. Change through Experiencing the Presence of God (28:10-15)**

Given the Promises of God (“With you and your descendants”);

See also 31:11-13; 32:1-2, 24-31

Given the Grace of God

(“Not for Jacob’s sake, but for Abraham’s sake”)

Note: The Power of A Second Chance . . .

Old Testament Moses (Exodus 3); Jonah (Jonah 2)

New Testament Peter (John 21); Paul (Galatians 1:11-24)

Dickens – Scrooge

Movies – “Rudy” Rudy Ruedigger;

“Hoosiers” Coach Norman Dale

**5. Change Through Experiencing the Absence of God**

(29:1-30; 30:25-36)

Cheated by Laban (a taste of his own medicine)

Powerless to respond, yet . . .

Empowered by the Promises of God (28:13-22, 31:13, 32:12)

Genesis 25:13 And **the Lord** stood beside him and said, “I am **the Lord**,  
the **GOD** of **Abraham** your father and the **GOD** of **Isaac**;  
the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring;  
14and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the  
west and to the east and to the north and to the south;  
and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring.  
15Know that I am with you  
and will keep you wherever you go,  
and will bring you back to this land;  
for I will not leave you  
until I have done what I have promised you.”

ANON.

*When God wants to drill a man, And thrill a man, And skill a man  
When God wants to mold a man To play the noblest part;  
When He yearns with all His heart To create so great and bold a man  
That all the world shall be amazed -- Watch His methods, watch His ways!  
How He bends but never breaks When his good He undertakes;  
How He uses whom He chooses, And with every purpose fuses him;  
And by every act induces him To try His splendor out-  
. . . God knows what He’s about.*