Scheming for God’s Blessing July 12, 2020

*Genesis 30:25-43 Series: How Jacob Became Israel*

O LORD, you will ordain peace for us, for you have indeed done for us all our works. – Isaiah 26:12

Intro: When the hut burned down.

1. Mistreatment doesn’t mean God hasn’t blessed you.
2. Jacob has had enough of slaving for Laban.

v. 25 *Jacob said to Laban, “Send me away …”*

vv. 25-26 *my own home … my wives … my children*

v. 26 *you know the service that I have given you*

1. Laban doesn’t want to lose Jacob.

v. 27 *I have learned by divination that the LORD has blessed me because of you.*

v. 28 *Name your wages, and I will give it.*

1. Laban’s been blessed, but Jacob has no blessing to show for it.

v. 29 *Jacob said to him, “You yourself know how I have served you …”*

v. 30 *you had little before I came, and it has increased abundantly*

v. 30 *the LORD has blessed you wherever I turned*

v. 30 *… when shall I provide for my own household also?*

* Why would it be frustrating for Jacob to see how God had blessed Laban through him?
* Why was it good that Laban persuaded Jacob to stay longer?
* When are you tempted to doubt God’s blessing in your life?

1. Mistreatment doesn’t mean you’ve done something wrong.
2. Jacob doesn’t want any handouts from a man like Laban.

v. 31 *Jacob said, “You shall not give me anything.”*

1. Jacob made Laban a generous offer.

v. 32 *let me pass through all your flock today, removing from it every speckled and spotted sheep and every black lamb, and the spotted and speckled among the goats, and they shall be my wages*

v. 34 *Laban said, “Good! Let it be as you have said.”*

1. Our generosity doesn’t ensure the fairness of others.

v. 35 *But that day Laban removed the male goats that were striped and spotted, and all the female goats that were speckled and spotted, every one that had white on it, and every lamb that was black …*

* Why doesn’t Jacob want any handouts from Laban?
* Why do we assume that if people mistreat us, we must have done something wrong?

1. Mistreatment doesn’t need to be answered in kind.
2. Jacob assumes that cheaters must be cheated.

v. 38 *He set the sticks that he had peeled in front of the flocks in the troughs*

v. 41 *Whenever the stronger of the flock were breeding, Jacob would lay the sticks in the troughs*

1. We can wrongly assume that we’re responsible for our success.

v. 39 *the flocks brought forth striped, speckled, and spotted*

v. 42 *the feebler would be Laban's, and the stronger Jacob's*

v. 43 *Thus the man increased greatly and had large flocks …*

* Why did Jacob feel he had to resort to these plans?
* Is there ever a time to beat someone at their own game?

1. God’s blessing doesn’t rest on our schemes or tricks.
2. God sees our mistreatment.

Genesis 31:12 *I have seen all that Laban is doing to you.*

1. God blesses us through what seem like obstacles.

Genesis 31:12 *Lift up your eyes and see, all the goats that mate with the flock are striped, spotted, and mottled …*

1. God is responsible for all of the blessing in our lives.

Genesis 31:9 *God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me.*

If you believe God has blessed you, you won’t brag about it.

1 Corinthians 4:7 *What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?*

If you believe God has blessed you, you will rely on Him.

2 Corinthians 3:5-6 *Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us sufficient to be ministers*

If you believe God has blessed you, you will accept losses.

John 3:27 *John answered, “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven.”*

If you believe God has blessed you, you will give generously.

1 Chronicles 29:14 *But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.*

* How does a belief in God’s blessing lead to humility?
* How did a belief in God’s blessing help John the Baptist deal with his loss in popularity and influence?
* Why is generosity connected to a belief in God’s blessing?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Genesis 31:1-21.

Notes