

SERMON APPLICATION SHEET FOR:

Rev. Tony Felich

A Silk Purse from a Sow's Ear

Genesis 29:31-30:24

April 23, 2023

Sermon Text	Sermon Notes
<p>Genesis 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] She conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Because the LORD has heard that I am hated, he has given me this son also." And she called his name Simeon. [34] Again she conceived and bore a son, and said, "Now this time my husband will be attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." Therefore his name was called Levi. [35] And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "This time I will praise the LORD." Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she ceased bearing.</p> <p>Genesis 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?" [3] Then she said, "Here is my servant Bilhah; go in to her, so that she may give birth on my behalf, that even I may have children through her." [4] So she gave him her servant Bilhah as a wife, and Jacob went in to her. [5] And Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son. [6] Then Rachel said, "God has judged me, and has also heard my voice and given me a son." Therefore she called his name Dan. [7] Rachel's servant Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son. [8] Then Rachel said, "With mighty wrestlings I have wrestled with my sister and have prevailed." So she called his name Naphtali. [9] When Leah saw that she had ceased bearing children, she took her servant Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife. [10] Then Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a son. [11] And Leah said, "Good fortune has come!" so she called his name Gad. [12] Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a second son. [13] And Leah said, "Happy am I! For women have called me happy." So she called his name Asher. [14] In the days of wheat harvest Reuben went and found mandrakes in the field and brought them to his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes." [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." [16] When Jacob came from the field in the evening, Leah went out to meet him and said, "You must come in to me, for I have hired you with my son's mandrakes." So he lay with her that night. [17] And God listened to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son. [18] Leah said, "God has given me my wages because I gave my servant to my husband." So she called his name Issachar. [19] And Leah conceived again, and she bore Jacob a sixth son. [20] Then Leah said, "God has endowed me with a good endowment; now my husband will honor me, because I have borne him six sons." So she called his name Zebulun. [21] Afterward she bore a daughter and called her name Dinah. [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!"</p>	<p><i>Only the Lord could make this family story and dynamic to be part of His plan for redemption...which should give us all hope!</i></p> <p>Memory verse for 2023-</p> <p>Philippians 4:19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.</p>

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Sermon Application Questions

1. Discuss how the practice of polygamy was so devastating for Jacob's family. Also: discuss how any deviation from God's plan for marriage/family leads to dismal results.

2. Why is dependence on the approval of others such an empty enterprise? See Leah as an example of this.

3. What could have been a better response from Jacob when Rachel complained to him about not being able to have children in verse 1?

4. Discuss this observation from R.S. Candlish:
But surely for Jacob himself and all concerned in these strange and sad affairs, it would have been better far, if faith had from all along from the first been allowed to rule.

If Jacob, in faith, had dealt more frankly and more boldly with Laban;

If Laban and his house had, in faith, received Jacob;

If all parties had, in simple faith, followed the Lord's guiding eye, - in simple faith leaving the event to Him.

5. How does this passage and the events it describes fit into the greater story of God's redemption through Christ?

Prayer Requests

This week our family will lift up requests for:

This week our family will praise the Lord for:

HFG Notes & Actions:

Next HFG meeting is: