

(Genesis) Genesis 29:22-29

by J. Vernon McGee

The sermon explores Jacob's marriage to Leah and Rachel, highlighting themes of deception, cultural customs, and God's disapproval of polygamy.

Duration: 4:25

Scripture: Genesis 16:1-4, Genesis 29:20-28, Genesis 29:30-35

Topics: "Genesis"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher focuses on the story of Jacob and Laban from the book of Genesis. Jacob serves Laban for seven years in order to marry Rachel, but Laban tricks him and gives him Leah instead. The preacher emphasizes that although this is recorded in the Bible, it does not mean that God approves of Jacob having two wives. The sermon highlights the consequences of Jacob's actions and the importance of following God's ways. The preacher also draws a parallel to Abraham taking Hagar as a wife, showing that God disapproved of that as well.

Transcript

And it came to pass in the evening, now notice what Uncle Laban's doing, this is a dirty trick, that he took Leah, his daughter, and brought her to him, and he went in unto her. Now at the marriage ceremony in that day, the way that it was done, the woman was veiled, entirely veiled. You couldn't see her at all.

And so poor Jacob didn't see the girl he's getting until he got in the tent, and he lifted the veil, and lo and behold, it wasn't Rachel, it was Leah. And I wonder if that very moment when he saw he'd been tricked, I wonder if he didn't recall something that he was the younger, and he pretended to be the elder to deceive his own father, and he deceived his father, and that's the reason he had to leave home, and he got the blessing, and it was a good trick he had pulled. But you see, God doesn't go in for that type of conduct.

God doesn't approve of it. God had promised him the blessing, but he's got to get it God's way. And so what happens? Well, the thing that happens is just simply this, that chickens are now coming home to roost.

He pretended to be the elder, and he was the younger. Now he thinks he's getting the younger, and he gets the elder. Chickens are indeed coming home to roost.

And what happened? Came to pass in the evening that he took Leah his daughter, brought her to him, he went in unto her, and Laban gave unto his daughter Leah Zilpah his maid for a handmaid. It came to pass that in the morning, behold, it was Leah, and he said to Laban, What is this that thou hast done unto me? Did not I serve thee for Rachel? Wherefore then hast thou beguiled me? And my, I tell you, when the tables are turned, this becomes an awful thing. In fact, it's a criminal thing that he's done.

But notice how Uncle Laban passes it off. Uncle Laban is an expert, friends, at this type of thing. And Laban said, It must not be so done in our country to give the younger before the firstborn.

Uncle Laban said, Well, there was a little matter, a little clause in the contract. In fact, it was that which was in fine print. Jacob and I forgot to call your attention to it.

There is a rule in the country that the elder daughter must marry first, and the younger daughter can't marry until the elder daughter is married. And I forgot to tell you that. And that's the reason that it worked out as it did.

Well, I tell you, a man served seven years here. And now notice Uncle Laban is prepared to be very generous in his dealings. He says, Fulfill her week.

And that week, you see, seven years. And we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years. Now, don't come along, friends, anyone, and say, Well, look, here this man is going to have two wives.

And it looks like God approved of it. Well, why do you think God approved of it? The record here is in spot because this is what happened. But that doesn't mean God approved of it.

In fact, as in the case of Abraham taking Hagar, the entire story, the whole incident, reveals that God disapproved of it. And it's recorded because it is a fact. Now, Jacob did so, verse 28, Fulfill her week.

And he gave him Rachel, his daughter to wife also. And Laban gave to Rachel his daughter, Billa, his handmaid to be her maid. And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years.

Believe me, Uncle, Laban is getting his money's worth, is he not? And poor Jacob is really going to school. But he has two wives, and he shouldn't have them. He'll be in trouble before it's over.

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