



Background

- Isaac, Jacob and Esau Genesis 25-27
 - Jacob (i.e. the deceiver).
 - Esau sells his birthright to Jacob. Genesis 25:27-34
 - Jacob obtains Isaac’s blessing. Genesis chapter 27
- Jacob and Laban.
 - Meets Laban’s shepherds. Genesis 29:4-6
 - Meets Rachael. Genesis 29:10-12
 - Jacob loves Rachael. Genesis 29:16-21
 - Agreement to marry Rachael.
 - Jacob deceived by Laban. Genesis 29:22-25

Married, but to the WRONG woman.

Genesis 29:25

“And it came to pass in the morning that, **behold, it was Leah**. And he said to Laban, What is this thou hast done unto me? Did not I serve with thee for Rachel? Wherefore then hast thou beguiled me?”

Leah Married To A Man Who Doesn’t Love Her

Leah knew her husband did not love her. She craved his love.

- Leah was hated. (Genesis 29:31)
- *“Now my husband will love me.”* (Genesis 29:32)
- *“Jehovah hath heard that I am hated.”* (Genesis 29:33)
- *“Now this time will my husband be joined unto me”* (Genesis 29:34)

Leah Has Four Sons

Ruben (i.e. “see a son”) – *“Because Jehovah hath looked upon my affliction.”* (misery NIV)

Simeon (i.e. “hearing”) – *“Because Jehovah hath heard that I am hated...”*

Levi (i.e. “attachment”) – *“Now this time my husband will be joined to me...”*

Judah (i.e. “praise”) – *“This time will I praise Jehovah”*

Leah Has Three More Children

Issachar (i.e. “a man of hire”) – *“God hath given me my hire.”* (Genesis 30:18)

Zebulun (i.e. “exalted”) – *“Now will my husband dwell with me.”* (Genesis 30:20) (“Dwell” means to honor, exalt)

Dinah (i.e. “judgment or justice”) – Raped by Shechem, son of Hamor (Genesis 34:1-4). Avenged by brothers, Simeon and Levi (Genesis 34:25-31)

Jacob's partiality...

Genesis 33:1-3 Jacob and Esau to meet.
 (cf. Genesis 25:27ff "birthright"; Genesis 27 "blessing")
"And Jacob lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold, Esau was coming, and with him four hundred men. And he divided the children unto Leah, and unto Rachel, and unto the two handmaids. And he put the handmaids and their children foremost, and Leah and her children after, and Rachel and Joseph hindermost. And he himself passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother."

Rachael's True Character Revealed

- Envied her sister and desired to die. (Genesis 30:1)
 - "Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachael." (Genesis 30:2)
- Discontent ... Gives Bilhah to Jacob twice. (Genesis 30:4-8)
 - Dan – (i.e. "he judged")
 - Naphtali – (i.e. "Wrestling") Contest with Leah.
- Discontent ... Sells Jacob's affection for a couple of Reuben's mandrakes. (Genesis 30:14-16)

Rachael's True Character Revealed

- Discontent ... When God gives her a son.
 - Joseph** – (i.e. "may he add") Wants another son. (Genesis 30:24)
- Discontent ... Stole her father's idols. (Genesis 31:19)
 - Greed ... heir.
 - Deceived her father. (Genesis 31:33-35)

Rachael Has Another Son

(Genesis 35:16-20)

- Rachael died in childbirth.
 - Named her son "Ben-oni" (i.e. "Son of my sorrow")
 - Jacob changed his name to "**Benjamin**" (i.e. Son of my right hand)
- Irony – Earlier she had screamed, "Give me children or else I die." (Genesis 30:1)
- She died leaving Jacob to her sister.
- Buried beside the road.

Rachael Is Loved, But Leah Is Honored

- Jacob loved Rachael until he died.
 - At the age of 147 when he called together his sons to bless them in Egypt he still thought of Rachael. (Genesis 48:7)
 - Yet, she was buried beside the road between Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

Jacob Honored Leah!

Remember after the birth of Zebulun, Leah said,

*"God hath endowed me with a good dowry; now will my husband **dwel (honor)** me, because I have borne him six sons." (Genesis 30:20)*

Jacob Honored Leah In Her Death

Genesis 49:29-31

"And he charged them, and said unto them, I am to be gathered unto my people: bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite for a possession of a burying-place: there they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife: there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife: and there I buried Leah." (cf. Genesis 50:13)

Conclusion:

Marriage is a lifetime commitment.

- Leah completely devoted to her husband.
- She blessed him with six sons and a daughter.
 - Through Leah, "Levi" was born ... the priestly tribe of the Levites.
 - Through Leah, "Judah" was born ... the lineage through which the Messiah came. (Matthew 1; Luke 3)

Conclusion:

We can't have everything we want.

- Rachael wants children (Genesis 30:1), but is blessed with her husband's love.
- Leah wants her husband's love and affection, but is fruitful. God saw Leah's broken heart. (Genesis 29:32-35)

Genesis 29:31, "And Jehovah saw that Leah was hated"

Genesis 29:32, "Because Jehovah hath looked upon my affliction."

Genesis 29:33, "Jehovah hath heard that I am hated."

Conclusion:

Contentment is a blessing.

- Rachael's **discontentment** isolated her in a grim world of loneliness.
 - Though she had the love of her husband.
- Leah's **contentment** caused her to praise God ... ultimately she was honored.
 - She learned to be "happy." (cf. Genesis 30:12)
 - Though she never enjoyed the love and affection of her husband.
- We are to learn contentment. (cf. 1 Timothy 6:6ff)
- While the circumstances of life change, God does not change. (cf. Hebrews 13:5)

Genesis 29:25

*"And it came to pass in the morning that, **behold, it was Leah.** And he said to Laban, What is this thou hast done unto me? Did not I serve with thee for Rachel? Wherefore then hast thou beguiled me?"*