

Leah and Rachel

“When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn’t I? Why have you deceived me?” Genesis 29: 25

NUGGET – What a shock for Jacob when he woke up the morning after getting married to find Leah in his bed and not Rachel. If you read the whole account ([Gen 29: 1-30](#)) of how Jacob came to marry Leah and then Rachel it raises this thought; Jesus also labored to win His bride the church. Jacob worked for Laban a total of 14 years in order to redeem his 2 wives.

Jacob had to serve Laban in order to pay the debt for them to become his own. And they both became Jacob’s by his paying the same amount for each one. These girls of Laban had the same price required for them. The difference though is important to notice. For Leah, Jacob had already worked 7 years, for Rachel, Jacob had to work another seven years after she became his wife. (Re-read carefully [verses 25-30](#).)

And the bride of Jesus, like the wives of Jacob, is of two groups, the Jews and the Gentiles. Notice in verse 27 and the last part of verse 30 that Jacob had to serve yet an additional 7 years for Laban to agree to give Rachel to him.

This is similar to what Jesus has done on the cross in this way; at the cross Jesus paid for the sins of:

- the Jews who had been the chosen people up to that time and
- the Gentiles who were also redeemed at the same cost.

The point being, that the cost for Jesus to redeem the Jews and the Gentiles is the same. Jesus had to labor, had to do the work of salvation, for both equally. Jacob of course was tricked into this and that is not the case with Jesus. Christ knew that the cost needed to be borne for His bride was going to be paid with His very blood. But that blood price is what was required to redeem the whole church, that Jewish and Gentile believers alike in Jesus, from their sin.

Jesus, unlike Jacob in our verse today, was not deceived when He awoke the ‘next day’. Jesus knew when He went to the cross, the value of the ‘girls’ who are His Bride. Leah and Rachel show us the value of the church to God. Leah and Rachel together had to be redeemed at the same cost. These girls, these wives, teach us how deeply God loves us.

APPLICATION - God gave Jesus into death to redeem all believers and thereby paid the cost to make us the church, the bride of Christ.

1. If you’re married look at your wedding ring. A price was paid for that symbol of unity with your spouse. Let that symbol serve a dual purpose to remind you also that Christ paid the price to make you *His* spouse.
2. Unlike Jacob, Jesus loves all in His church without playing favorites. What fellow ‘Leah’ do you know needs to be reminded of the truth that they are favored in the eyes of God because Christ redeemed them?

PRAY – give thanks to God for both Leah and Rachel who, together, remind us of God’s labor of love for us through Christ on the cross.

Peace in Christ, Pastor Tom Rhodes



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*Going Deeper together. We meet in the **Fellowship Hall** during the Education Hour for discussion and prayer with all those who're able to come. If you're not able to make it Sunday, please feel free to e-mail me with your comments or questions so that we can have the benefit of sharing them together.*

GOING DEEPER

Read about how Rebekah came to be Isaac's wife in [Gen 24](#). There is much in this story to learn from. Pick out one or two things that stand out for you. Keeping in mind what we talked about in the nugget, what do those things you picked out do to help you in understanding of God and His ways?

In reading this account, what stands out for you regarding Sarah and Rebekah? What similarities or differences do you see in these two women?

Compare this young Rebekah with the Rebekah we see later after she has raised her twin boys. Note her brother's actions and words. Note also the blessing she receives before she goes. Is there anything in her family relationships that may give an indication of the kind of woman she will become?

One of the striking things about this story is the desire and wish of Abraham in regard to the choosing of a wife for his son. In [verses 1-8](#) we see that Abraham wants a wife for his son from the 'old country'. There are good reasons for this. The land in which Abraham now lives is not peopled with those who acknowledge the living God of heaven.

God has promised Abraham the land and to make of his offspring a great nation. So to get a wife for his child of promise, Isaac, Abraham sends to the old country for one. He needs someone who is predisposed to listen to God to help his son. For this he needs someone who shares the values Abraham was brought up with.

Those values are not yet to be found where Abraham and Isaac now live. The life of promise is to be lived and carried out in this new land, but the values must be brought into this land from outside, from the old country. There is a parallel to this in Jesus coming to earth and then in how we are to live.

Jesus has come to the new country from the old. Jesus has come to earth from heaven and brought with Him the values from there. He has brought the promise to earth of God's love and willingness to sacrifice so that His promise would come to pass.

The same is true in all believers; our values come to us not from this land in which we live. Our values come from the old country; they come from heaven to earth. Jesus has brought them with Him, and placed them in our hearts by His Holy Spirit. We live by the promises that God sends to us through Christ on the cross, not by what we see around us here and now. As Rebekah came from the old country to support and aid Isaac as he lives the life of promise in the new land, so Christ lives in us to guide us in our lives here and now; now and forever by God's promise. Peace in Christ, PR.