

Leah and Rachel: Fighting Comparison with Contentment

SERMON NOTES

I. Introduction: A great love story begins.

- Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, *“I’ll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel.”* Genesis 29:18
- But outside forces threaten to undo the happy story.

II. Lesson 1 – God has different plans for each of us.

- a. HOW does **Jacob not realize** who he is marrying?
- b. WHAT made the father pull this **bizarre deception**?
- c. HOW did the **sisters feel being** caught up in this deception?

III. Lesson 2 – GOD SEES and loves each of us.

- a. God sees Leah’s pain and gives her six sons.

“I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.”
Philippians 4:11-12

IV. Lesson 3 – Fight Comparison with Contentment

- a. We can have HOPE that God’s story for our lives is not over.
- b. Leah, the unloved, rejected sister becomes the great matriarch of Jesus Christ, through her fourth son, Judah. God’s great plans for Leah were not realized or seen in her lifetime.

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. God had different plans, different gifts for the two sisters, Leah and Rachel, just like He does for you and I. Why does God make us different?
2. 1 Samuel 16:7, *“The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”*
How does God define an attractive person?
3. Scripture tells us that Jacob loved Rachel more than he loved Leah. What is the danger of comparing people, including ourselves?
4. Judah means *“Praise.”* Why does Leah name her fourth son *“Praise”* or Judah? What can we learn from Leah in this instance?
5. 1 Timothy 6:6-8 teaches us that, *“Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that...”*
What areas of your life are you struggling with contentment?
6. Hebrews 11:1 states this: *“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”* How would you feel if you didn’t see victory in your life until you see Jesus face-to-face?
7. We hold on to our faith and cultivate HOPE that God is working for our best. What areas of your life can you praise and thank God for right now?
8. What areas of frustration or discontentment can you surrender to God today in prayer?