Genesis Chapter 29 Verses 1 – 2a

* Just want to make a short point here…notice where the sheep hang out? ***Next to the well!*** Just want to point that out because Jesus said in John 7:37, *“If anyone thirsts…”* Why would He say that?! Because **EVERYONE thirsts!** Everyone needs. We all have wells in our lives…and man the flavor of who you are REVEALS what well you flock to…
* Jesus said, *“If anyone thirsts let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me as the scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”* Jesus said just a little later in John Chapter 10, *“You do not believe because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”*
* This word for *“lying”* as in *the flocks of sheep lying by it* is the word *rabats* in Hebrew and it literally means, *“couched, reclined, relaxed, refreshed…”*  Go to God with your thirst…**root in**, plant yourself, ***couch*** next to Him and check yourself…don’t be deceived to think you are following Jesus and yet your prayer life is *non-existent*, the last time you spent time alone with the Lord in His Word is the last time someone else taught you…*what or who is the well for your soul if that’s the case?* ***Careful...clean water and parasite infested water often looks the same…***

Genesis Chapter 29 Verses 2b – 6a *“Is he well”*

* I like this! Jacob is ***slick*** and he is ***smart.*** He says, *“Do you know Laban?”* He hasn’t yet revealed who he is by the way…and then he says, *“Is he well?”* In other words, ***“Do you like him!”*** HA! He’s not about to get tangled into some enemies of his family! **Smart!**

Genesis Chapter 29 Verses 6b – 8

* What’s he doing here? He sees Rachel coming and we’ll find out in just a minute that she was not only very pretty but she was also very **PHAT!** (*Pretty Hot and Tempting*!) **HA!** Later we will read that she was *beautiful of appearance AND form*…and soooooo Jacob is, perhaps, trying to get rid of these other guys*! “Hey, don’t you have some work to go do!?”* **HA!**

Genesis Chapter 29 Verse 9

* Now I like this because this is *very odd.* She is a **shepherdess.** A *non-traditional* role for a young lady in this culture. *Non-culturally compliant* and I like that about Rachel. But notice this (and here is why I like it), she came with her father’s sheep. She is tending her ***father’s*** flocks and thus we know that it is ***with his approval and consent that she is working in the field.*** And I like that…later we will see her silently obedient to her father as he offers her for marriage even…Here’s the point I’m making…
* Everybody wants to be something, do something, follow this dream or that desire or whatever…but here’s the thing…***what’s it going to do to those that love you?*** I love this…she is beautiful, hot, unmarried and works in the field but in that the strength of her integrity of relationship with her father is ***silently screaming***…how about you? Do your decisions silently scream what you believe and profess about yourself (um, short answer > YES)…**WHAT do they scream?** That you serve Jesus and that you love your wife…love your husband…love your children?
* She is different for sure. The only shepherdess that I am able to find in the scriptures…but to anyone that loves the Lord and actually serves Him with their lives…***she is remarkably the same!*** Because she serves not herself but her father. **Self-will is the opposite of worship**, folks…***and those that follow Jesus without worshipping Him do not follow the real Jesus…***

Genesis Chapter 29 Verse 10

* He did what?! Remember who Jacob was. The *chef.* The *momma’s boy.* The *home-maker!* He was **not** a man of the field! This is probably the *hardest work* that he’d ever done in his life! But I love this and there are a couple of points to make here…First, have you ever heard the phrase, “Opposites attract?” That could be the case here but folks listen, there’s a little bit of danger in that thought…you need to have **some things** in common, right? I mean we connect on our commonalities and often we are drawn to the characteristics of others that we wish we had more of in our own personalities…thus opposites attract…but be careful with that…*one of you is going to have to change a bunch…*
* And that’s really my second point…notice, Jacob meets Rachel, his future wife…and immediately **he is willing to change for her**…do you see that? He’s not a man of the field…***his hands probably have lotion on them right now!*** **HA!** But he immediately *works*, he immediately *serves her.* Ladies, if you are *“dating”* or considering dating a man that does not go OUT OF HIS WAY to serve you and inconvenience himself…***leave that loser alone!!!*** You will regret regret regret regret tying yourself to a ***child*** and not a man…men today don’t even open doors for the ladies anymore…they eat before she has taken a bite…they order before their wives at restaurants…**shameful**…you get one shot ladies…even if he is a Jacob…a mess…is he immediately serving and changing to suit you? ***WHY would you settle for less????????????????????????????????***
* Men, you think you need to be smooth? Nope…just serve her…be a good man…and God will do the rest in terms of a wife…Jacob is not smooth…look at his pickup line…

Genesis Chapter 29 Verses 11 – 12

* Ok, *can you be any more awkward!?* He **kissed her and cried!?** HA! ***Made her run away!!!*** Listen guys, let me help you…when you find a fair maiden that loves the Lord, hit her with this line…, *Now I know why Solomon had 700 wives, because he never me YOU!* HA! Or…*girl, you need to pray for forgiveness because it is a SIN to look that good!* HA!! Ok ok, one more…*Is your name Faith, because you’re the substance of things I’ve hoped for!!!* **YES!!!**
* Much better than Jacob…sheesh…

Genesis Chapter 29 Verses 13 – 15

* Now this is actually a very *good* principle. **Hardly let people serve you for nothing**…now on one hand that doesn’t necessarily mean *pay them with money* but if you see or sense someone serving you…serve them back! Repay them the kindness. **BUT**, there are circumstances when this does mean pay them with money. If you are staying with someone…and they are extending some sort of charity by giving you a room or their basement…you should pay them something to offset the burden…***just a good principle.***
* Now this sounds really good on the surface but by doing this Laban is actually putting Jacob in a position that he has never been in before…and that is the position of a **hired servant.** Laban is very slick. He is passively and with a bit of manipulation *asserting authority* over Jacob yet at the same time showing kindness remembering the wealth of Jacob’s father…***very slick!***

Genesis Chapter 29 Verses 16 – 17

* There is debate over what is meant exactly by *“Leah’s eyes were delicate.”* Literally the Hebrew word is *delicate* or ***soft***…and I believe the implication is that Leah wasn’t a very attractive person but she was *kind, humble, soft-hearted*…and I just want to mention one thing here…in a world so obsessed with outward beauty…if you are attractive, beautiful of form and appearance…***how about your eyes?*** One of the most **repulsive things** in this life is a beautiful woman or a handsome man that is harsh and cold in heart…

Genesis Chapter 29 Verses 18 – 20

* What? Did you hear that!? ***Seven years!*** They weren’t even dating!! Isn’t it amazing…if he loves you…like he says, then he won’t pressure you, he won’t woo you into compromising situations…***he will wait for you!*** Amazing TRUTH! And notice, this time passed like it was nothing, why? Not because of circumstance. He was a servant. Not because of how she treated him or how he was respected there in Laban’s house…the time passed like it was nothing and he loved serving her because of ***HIS love for HER!*** ***Call her your “old lady,” or the “old ball and chain,” all that reveals is your lack of love and respect for her…not the other way around.***

Genesis Chapter 29 Verses 21 – 25

* Ok sick scene for sure but my how ironic! Jacob is upset with Laban for **exactly** what he did to Esau!!

Genesis Chapter 29 Verses 26 – 27

* Think about how Jacob must have felt…how Rachel must have felt…how Leah must have felt…I can’t even get there conceptually because it’s such a *tragic and drastic situation*…but all of these folks are **severely harmed** because of one man looking out for himself…

Genesis Chapter 29 Verses 28 – 32

* The first of the 12 sons of Israel is born and his name is Reuben which means, *“Behold, a son.”*

Genesis Chapter 29 Verse 33

* The second son’s name is Simeon which means, *“Hearing,”* as God certainly heard her and comforted her in a bad marriage. One other note here, a bit scandalous…***don’t ever translate a man’s willingness to lay with you as love.*** It’s not. Jacob is obviously willing to lay with Leah although he does not love her. Guzik says it this way, *“Only a foolish woman regards the willingness of a man to be with her as proof of love.”* And it’s true…

Genesis Chapter 29 Verses 34 – 35

* And so in total, Leah has six sons (two more come later). Number three was Levi which means, *“Skinny Jeans,”* HA! Just kidding. Levi means, *“Attachment,”* and finally Judah, meaning, *“Praise.”* ***There’s a pattern in these names***…as Leah is left out by man and walked on by this world…God gives her one of the greatest of gifts…a child and even more so, ***a son!*** His ear inclined and hearing the humble as Leah was…then with the third son Leah is no longer attached to her need for acceptance but is learning to attach herself to the Lord and by the fourth son, **she is full of praise.** It’s a sweet pattern…
* And from her will come the two most important tribes…the Levites and the tribe of Judah…from which the Messiah will come…