Genesis Chapter 30 Verse 1

* This is ***interesting.*** Rachel is distraught, to the point of even her loathing life! BUT, remember, **she is beautiful.** Remember, **Jacob loves her above her sister.** She is basically crying out, *“If only I had sons like my sister, I’d be happy.”* But here’s the thing, no doubt Leah often said, *“If only I had my sister’s beauty and the love of my husband, then I would be happy.”* What’s the point?
* Have you ever seen that picture with the man in the fancy new sports car passing by the man pushing his kids in the swings at the park…and the one man looks at the other and says, *“Oh if I just had that, I’d be happy.”* One man ***longing*** for the success of life and the other ***longing*** for a family. It’s the same principle here and there is an **underlying truth** that is relevant to you and to me today. Neither family, nor children, nor money, nor success will satisfy your soul. ***We’re not made like that***…***our hearts find rest and settle from longing in Christ alone.***
* Even as a church, visiting Calvary Chapel Golden Springs, they have a facility that’s worth probably $30M or more now. The screen behind the stage is the length of the ***entire*** stage and probably 30 feet tall…and I caught myself even thinking, *“Man, if we had this, then we’d be so legit!”* **HA!!** We joke like that every time we change something and have for the past seven years. When we went from one coffee pot to two, *“Now we’re legit!”* **HA!** We just put these curtains up behind the stage less than a week ago and we kidded, *“Now we’re legit!”* ***But that’s a joke!*** A church that is alive in Jesus, focused on glorifying Him, spotlighting Him constantly and growing closer and staying close to Him personally…***that is legitness!!!***
* But it’s so *easy and natural and we so often* can look on the condition of others and *long* for what they have and in that we **belittle and completely miss the blessing of our own lives**…we’ve just grown cold and dull and that’s what envy will do to you. 2 Corinthians 8:12 is truly one of my favorite passages. It says, *“If there is a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have…”* ***And I believe the secret to a willing mind is a mind that worships God.***
* Jacob can’t fix this…and not being able to fix something for a man is VERY hard. If we can’t fix it then we typically run from it…when you can’t run from it, when it’s your wife, many times one of two things will happen, you husband will *slip into despair* or become *very frustrated*…***careful***…here’s what you ought to do. Run to the Father. Proverbs 18:10 says, *“The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe…”* Jacob shows the ***danger of reaction*** when faced with a problem that he has no answer for…he lashes out and he deals what I see as a **significant blow** to his wife.

Genesis Chapter 30 Verse 2

* That may be true…that God has not given her a child…and the issue we will see later in this chapter is not Rachel but rather it is ***timing***…even so, Jacob doesn’t have to say that. Men, take note. ***Just because something is true doesn’t mean it is helpful at that moment.*** *Timing* is an important component of God’s will and ways. I don’t want to settle for being *right*…I’ve done that enough in my life and hurt the people I love plenty. Halted God’s ways and quenched His Holy Spirit…***grieved God***…I don’t want to settle for being right, my aim is to serve God in ***righteousness.*** There is a difference…and **the difference is love.**
* Truth without love is cruel. Love will guide your tongue. Love will tell you ***when*** to deliver hard truth and ***when*** to just console, pray…be like Jesus rather than His bull horn…Jacob seemingly misses that here…

Genesis Chapter 30 Verses 3 – 4

* This is such a mess…Just as Abraham had a son by his wife’s maid Hagar, Jacob seemingly follows right in his footsteps and this is one of the reasons, **this chapter** specifically is one of the reasons why folks turn their noses up to God and to the Bible because truly, this kind of stuff is ***distasteful*** and in many ways ***repulsive.*** ***Scandalous***…but note, where did God, in any way, command this to happen? The Bible is simply reporting history. Folks blame God for man’s corruption…why? Doesn’t make sense to me…

Genesis Chapter 30 Verses 5 – 6

* Dan literally means *“Judgment.”*

Genesis Chapter 30 Verses 7 – 8

* This really is a sad statement. I mean the situation is sad and the home is a mess. But Rachel makes this statement, *“With great wrestlings, I have wrestled with my sister…”* The word literally is *“twisted.”* *“I have twisted my sister.”* The original Twisted Sister! **HA!** But it’s sad…why? A little humility, a little godliness, a little kindness and my how life would be different! She said, *“With great wrestlings,”* not *“With great wrestling…”* This feud, this grudge, this childishness **(ironically that is making more children)** is not just affecting one aspect of their lives, ***it’s pervasive!*** Better to choose humility and peace…
* Naphtali literally means, *“Wrestling.”* It’s a sick and horrible and especially evil thing to use your children to send a nasty message to a family member…and really ***it’s pathetic!*** Rachel now has 2 sons, and they aren’t even hers, and she says she has *prevailed* over her sister who has four sons? Man, envy makes you stupid, eh? Now it’s Leah’s turn…

Genesis Chapter 30 Verses 9 – 11

* *“Gad”* literally means *“Troop.”* These women are hurling offense at each other through the naming of their sons…wow. **Remember Judah?** Means *praise*…how soon we can go from *praise towards God in our hearts* to *launching troops towards our sister or our brother.* Outside looking in it repulses you doesn’t it? ***Then don’t do it!***

Genesis Chapter 30 Verses 12 – 13

* Asher literally means, *“Happy.”* Not going to work, Leah…

Genesis Chapter 30 Verses 14 – 18

* Ok, things just went from weird to weirder. Stranger things Israel Edition! HA! The Mandrake is known as the *“love-apple*” in the Hebrew language. It was thought to promote fertility…and so those come in from the field and the sisters *go at it again*…Hey Leah, I thought you were happy? **Nope.** You know what ultimately brings happiness…? And you’re not going to like this…***humility***…
* Issachar literally means, *“Reward.”* Was God rewarding Leah for all of this activity…? **Absolutely not**…He was accomplishing His sovereign will. Jacob, who will later be known as Israel, would be born 12 sons…

Genesis Chapter 30 Verses 19 – 20

* Zebulun literally means, *“Dwelling.”* Notice this, this little competition between sisters…I just want you to see, in the end, no matter how many children, ***no one was the winner.*** ***Everyone suffered.*** I mean can you imagine Thanksgiving at that house? HA! ***Envy, strife, competition in the family of God…no one wins!*** Titus 3:10-11 says, *“Admonish a divisive person one and at most two times and then reject them. Throw them out. That person is warped and sinning and is self-condemned.”*
* ***Settle it quickly and settle it with humility or you are the battery that is powering the suffering in this church and in your own family...***When check this out, remember, we are all a mess! We are all flawed! We all need grace! You are no more perfect than any other brother or sister in this place! We all need an equal portion of the Holy Spirit…! And the wonder of God is that He loves to give that full portion to anyone who would allow Him.