Genesis Chapter 30 Verses 14 – 18

* Envy just makes folks so weird and ugh, ***yuck!!*** 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…the promises of God to Abraham will be fulfilled…

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.*** ***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.

Genesis Chapter 30 Verses 21 – 24

* This is somewhat of a ***mess.*** Rachel has been praying for years for a child and specifically for a son and now she has one and she immediately wants another one. The key to ***satisfaction*** in life is not getting everything you want…many times that has an entirely reverse effect…***the key to receiving satisfaction of heart truly is to give your heart to Jesus***…to stick very close to God.
* You are worth more, you are more complex and important and you were designed for more than the ***trivial pursuit of pleasure.*** Ecclesiastes 3:11 says, *“God has set eternity in the hearts of men,”* and because of that ***design***, ***only the eternal will satisfy the heart.*** You have to know this. You HAVE to understand this…because at the root all kinds of destruction in folks’ lives lies a root of ***dissatisfaction.***
* Men run out on their wives. Wives run out on their husbands. Kids rebel and disrespect their parents. People turn into the liquor store before heading home from work each day…some text their dealer…while others scroll and post endlessly on Instagram and Snap-Chat or Facebook…and some even face the loss of freedom for *fraud, theft, immorality or senseless entertainment*…why? Dissatisfaction of heart…***a sick heart***…Jesus alone, a close relationship alone is the cure that cures the thousands of ailments of heart and life…
* Jesus said in John 4:13-14 (paraphrase), *“Anyone who drinks the water of the world will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. That water will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”* Jeremiah 31:25 says that God ***satiates the weary soul with satisfaction and replenishes every sorrowful soul.***
* What if Rachel had served her sister? What if she had found a way to ***bless*** rather than ***compete***? Then when the son came she would **rejoice**…but instead the blessing of God arrives and she names him, *“I want more…”* Don’t miss God’s *provision and benefit and bonus and blessing and favor* in your life because you’ve yet to figure out that **your heart is sick** without a personal relationship with Jesus…Poor Joseph…literally his name means, *“May He add…”* or in other words, *“You’re not enough…”* Kind of a harsh name…

Genesis Chapter 30 Verses 25 – 27

* I like this because there is a principle here…Laban says to Jacob, *“I have learned by experience that the Lord has blessed me for your sake.”* And that’s a true statement…he’s basically saying that **Jacob is a blessing to him** and that *should be true of anyone* who claims to be a Christian. Filled with the Holy Spirit, God Himself, we should be blessings to the folks around us, ***especially in the workplace.*** And that doesn’t necessarily mean you’re the *best producer*…it ***could***, but it doesn’t *have* to mean that. You can bless your boss on your first day when you have NO IDEA what you’re doing! **HA!!**
* Being a blessing doesn’t necessarily mean you’re the *first one in and the last one out.* What if they don’t like you!? **HA!** Not blessing them at all! How are people blessed then? Well, it could be like Laban…certainly in terms of how you produce and your effectivity but ultimately, people are blessed, co-workers are blessed, bosses are blessed, spouses are blessed, the family of God is **blessed** by *love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control*…***Worry less about people liking you and be so close to Christ that you become loving like Him…joyful like Him…kind like Him***…the cool thing is…in that process…capability, effectivity, efficiency will all come as well…
* Here’s the key…next chapter, verse 6, Jacob speaking to Rachel says this, *“The God of my father has been with me, and you know that with all my heart, I have served your father…”* These are the two statements that ought to be on the ***heart, mind, soul and strength*** of every working Christian…every one of us that bears the name of Christ and seeks to honor and worship Him…***God is with me and I’m with Him with all my heart…***

Genesis Chapter 30 Verses 28 – 34

* So it appears they have a mutually agreeable deal here but Laban not only tries to con Jacob but he also tries to ensure Jacob really *gets nothing* out of the deal…watch this…

Genesis Chapter 30 Verses 35 – 36

* Some Bible expositors see this as Laban fulfilling his part of the deal but I’m not so sure. *We know Laban.* We know he is a trickster and a con-artist. It could be that Jacob returned to the field to find all of the flock solid colored…it could be, and I think it indeed is, that when he returned to the field that he knew while Laban had agreed to give him all of the spotted and speckled of the flock that he had given the order to his sons to quickly go and purify the flock and set three days between them and Jacob…***take them***…I believe Jacob was cheated…but notice how he reacts…he doesn’t *wine, pout, simmer*, he doesn’t *launch war against his wives’ father* or against his employer or his co-workers (Laban’s sons)…***he gets to work…***

Genesis Chapter 30 Verses 37 – 43

* What’s he doing? Seems *crazy* but we’ll read in the next chapter that God had spoken to him in a dream…given him some encouragement, *“I have seen all that Laban is doing to you…”* and then given him a ***promise*** and some ***instruction***…and Jacob walks in it. I love that. We need no dreams for God’s encouragement, promises and instruction…***we have God’s Word.*** Living and sharper than any two edged-sword…and if we do as Jacob…even if it’s *odd and fresh and personal and perhaps even a little crazy* in the eyes of the world…the man that becomes exceedingly prosperous **will be you.**
* But *the wining, the pouting, the complaining, the victim-mentality*, ***it’s got to go.*** Look at all of the men and women God called throughout the Word…what were they doing? Just consider the apostles. Matthew was at work. Peter was at work. Paul was at work. They were men of ***diligence*** and men of ***action***, not men of words and not men that were lazy. ***So get to work, work unto the Lord, and get into His calling…His Word.***