

Genesis 30:25-31

God's Word is Greater

Section 1: 30:25-43 – Jacob and Laban Deceive Again

²⁵ After Rachel gave birth to Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, "Send me on my way so that I can return to my homeland. ²⁶ Give me my wives and my children that I have worked for, and let me go. You know how hard I have worked for you."

³⁴ "Good," said Laban. "Let it be as you have said."

⁴¹ Whenever the stronger of the flock were breeding, Jacob placed the branches in the troughs, in full view of the flocks, and they would breed in front of the branches. ⁴² As for the weaklings of the flocks, he did not put out the branches. So it turned out that the weak sheep belonged to Laban and the stronger ones to Jacob. ⁴³ And the man became very rich. He had many flocks, female and male slaves, and camels and donkeys.

How powerful is man's word? Not very. At the heart of man is sin. Romans 3:23 (CSB) says: *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.* We see in the interaction between Laban and Jacob that deception is common place.

Deception is common place for today society as well. We need lawyers and contracts for everything. Why? Because deception runs rampant in our society.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Why can't man's word be trusted?
- ❖ Can you ever put 100% confidence in another person? Why?
- ❖ Who can you put 100% confidence in?

Section 2: 31:1-21 – God's Word is Greater

Now Jacob heard what Laban's sons were saying: "Jacob has taken all that was our father's and has built this wealth from what belonged to our father." ² And Jacob saw from Laban's face that his attitude toward him was not the same as before.

³ The Lord said to him, "Go back to the land of your ancestors and to your family, and I will be with you."

¹⁰ "When the flocks were breeding, I saw in a dream that the streaked, spotted, and speckled males were mating with the females. ¹¹ In that dream the angel of God said to me, 'Jacob!' and I said, 'Here I am.' ¹² And he said, 'Look up and see: all the males that are mating with the flocks are streaked, spotted, and speckled, for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you. ¹³ I am the God of Bethel, where you poured oil on the stone marker and made a solemn vow to me. Get up, leave this land, and return to your native land.'"

We see God speaking twice in this section. Both times God is telling Jacob to return to the land and I will be with you. Jacob doesn't trust Laban's word and Laban doesn't trust Jacob's word. We are seeing a stark difference between God's Word and man's word throughout the book of Genesis.

Ultimately, only God's Word can be trusted.

Matthew 24:35; Luke 21:33

Part of trusting God's Word is found in what isn't apart of God's character:

- God doesn't Lie (Titus 1:2)
- God can't Deny Himself (2 Tim 2:6)
- God doesn't break a promise (Ps 89:34)
- God never gives approval to sin (Is 59:1-2)
- God never stops loving His people (Jer 31:3)
- God will not give His glory to another (Is 42:8)
- God will not pardon without atonement (Ex 34:7)

God remains faithful 2 Tim 2:13.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Why is God's Word better than man's word?
- ❖ Do you live as if God's Word is the supreme word?
- ❖ What characterizes a life lived believing God's Word is supreme?

Section 3: 31:22-55 – More Deception and Meaningless Words

³¹ Jacob answered, "I was afraid, for I thought you would take your daughters from me by force. ³² If you find your gods with anyone here, he will not live! Before our relatives, point out anything that is yours and take it." Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen the idols.

³⁵ She said to her father, "Don't be angry, my lord, that I cannot stand up in your presence; I am having my period." So Laban searched, but could not find the household idols.

⁴¹ For twenty years in your household I served you—fourteen years for your two daughters and six years for your flocks—and you have changed my wages ten times! ⁴² If the God of my father, the God of Abraham, the Fear of Isaac, had not been with me, certainly now you would have sent me off empty-handed. But God has seen my affliction and my hard work, and he issued his verdict last night."

⁵³ The God of Abraham, and the gods of Nahor—the gods of their father—will judge between us." And Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac. ⁵⁴ Then Jacob offered a sacrifice on the mountain and invited his relatives to eat a meal. So they ate a meal and spent the night on the mountain. ⁵⁵ Laban got up early in the morning, kissed his grandchildren and daughters, and blessed them. Then Laban left to return home.

2 Observations: (1) Laban and Jacob make a covenant. Do they fully trust each other? Probably not. (2) We are still seeing this theme of Jacob referring to God as the God of Abraham and Isaac. Jacob still hasn't fully embraced God.

You ever wonder how someone who has experienced so much of God's grace isn't fully bought in? No two journeys look the same. We all have different experiences, choices, conflicts, reactions, consequences, etc. But there is one constant we can all share...God. He has graciously given us His Word. And when God speaks...it is greater than all our experiences, failures, agendas and sins.

We must become a people that embrace the Word of God. Psalm 119:9-16.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ What is holding you back from meditating on God's Word?
- ❖ What is holding you back from memorizing God's Word?
- ❖ What is holding you back from living out God's Word?
- ❖ No more excuses...are you going to commit today to live according to God's Word?