

The Deceiver is Deceived
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Gen 29:15-30

Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" 16 Now Laban had two daughters. The name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. 17 Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance. 18 Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." 19 Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." 20 So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. 21 Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." 22 So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. 23 But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. 24 (Laban gave his female servant Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her servant.) 25 And in the morning, behold, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" 26 Laban said, "It is not so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. 27 Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." 28 Jacob did so, and completed her week. Then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. 29 (Laban gave his female servant Bilhah to his daughter Rachel to be her servant.) 30 So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah, and served Laban for another seven years.

Upon completing his journey to Haran, Jacob connects with his mother's deceitful brother, Laban, who is the perfect instrument for Jacob's sanctification. 29:10-20

- He was immediately drawn to Rachael at first sight but did not pray, seek counsel, or consider character.
- Seems attracted to her more for her beauty than her spiritual qualities.
 - Outward beauty should always be second to *inner beauty* (character & godliness). Prov 31:30, 1 Pet 3:1-6, 1 Sam 16:7, 1 Cor 4:7
 - Be content with the way God made you & find your real value in godly character.

Jacob had no financial means so he agreed to work for 7 years as a dowry for Rachael.

- Illustration: Jesus Christ did the work of atonement because of his love for the church.
 - Served so He might unite us to himself in a deeper union than marriage.
- Nothing is more beautiful in any romantic literature than Gen 29:20.
 - It did not feel like 7 yrs. It went quick but the price was insignificant compared to what he was getting.

It seems as if Jacob sins & is blessed: because he still gets the girl. But it's reaping time. Gen 29:21-30

- He now knows how Esau felt when he got tricked out of something precious.
 - The deceiver doesn't think deception is bad until he gets deceived! Vs 25

It is incredibly ironic how the situation parallels Jacob's deception of his father.

- He was deceived by his father by disguise; deceived by his bride's father with a disguise.
- Jacob deceived his blind father; he gets deceived in a dark tent.
- He cheated his brother out of his firstborn rights; gets cheated because of firstborn rights.
- He pretended to be the older brother, Laban replaced younger with the older sister.
 - Leah willingly deceived but probably did not know about her father's offer of Rachael (polygamy never lawful in Bible).....They were family experts in deceit.
 - In the end Jacob worked twice as hard to get what he desired.

God was not getting even/punishing but lovingly teaching Jacob the seriousness of sin.

- Our punishment was borne by Jesus on cross, but discipline is corrective training & leads to godliness. *Heb 12:11, Rom 5:3-4*
 - God loves us too much to let us be deceived & destroyed by sin.
- Laban was what Jacob became in future without the Lord's loving discipline.
 - God used Laban during that 20 yr "time-out" to craft character of Jacob.

The Lord takes whatever time necessary & uses difficult people (Laban, employer, family member, neighbor) & unjust treatment to shape/sanctify His people.

- Christ was crucified when he was innocent, then God will not exempt us from unjust treatment
 - The Lord loves His children too much not to correct and discipline them.
- We can learn/change the easy or the hard way. Jacob chose the hard and the long way.
 - Unnecessary: He did not have to deceive the father, Jacob could have offered the gifts, taken his bride, and gone home
 - We should not think "Why this happening to me?" but "What can I learn from this?"

God is gracious & good in and during the process of shaping His people.

- Jacob prospered and blessed by God at the same time as being disciplined by Him.
 - Comes with nothing, leaves with the woman he loved, had 12 sons & many daughters (46:7), he was wealthy, and returned home to Canaan.
- Lord lovingly, and graciously uses circumstances of your life, consequences of sin, & difficult people, over the long haul to conform to Christians into the image of Jesus Christ.
 - All for our joy & the Lord's glory.