

GOD is greater than > deception

Genesis 29:1-30

Even though it might look like God's people may experience His blessing in their lives, God will effectively discipline them by making them painfully aware of their unresolved sins.

1. Those who feel that God is working in their lives are inspired to enthusiastically serve others. Vs. 1-14

Having a promise from God, Jacob works hard for Laban, and with joy, knowing he will get to marry Rachel.

A. God is faithful to open up doors to fulfill His promises Vs. 1-6

Genesis 28: God's promise to Jacob in the vision at Bethel

Genesis 29: The meeting at the well is the beginning of fulfillment

"Hinneh" = "Behold"

God opening doors to Abraham's servant in Genesis 24:11-33

B. When we know it's from God, we can serve others enthusiastically Vs. 7-14

Have you ever felt called by God to do something hard? Were you obedient?

2. God's divine design despite our dysfunction. Vs. 15-30

Jacob is confronted with his own sinful past while dealing with Laban, who deceives him in many of the same ways.

"It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in." Isaiah 40:21-22

A. We can naively pursue God's blessings and forget our unresolved sins. Vs. 15-20

Two Daughters

Older: LEAH

Younger: RACHEL

Two Sons

Older: ESAU

Younger: JACOB

In both cases, the older is standing in the way of Jacob's plans

B. God's people often find their sin coming back on them to discipline them Vs. 21-30

4 Reminders from Jacob's past

1. Jacob accuses Laban of "deceiving" him. Vs. 25, cf: Genesis 27:35
2. Laban's explanation of the "firstborn." Vs. 26, cf: Genesis 27
3. Motif of serving figures. Vs. 18, cf: Genesis. 27:29
4. Both Isaac and Jacob could not see. Vs. 25, cf: Genesis 27:1

Sowing & Reaping Proverbs 11:18, 22:8; Hosea 8:7; 10:12-13

"Behold, you have sinned against the LORD, and be sure your sin will find you out." Numbers 32:23

"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap." Galatians 6:7

Digger Deeper

The Old Testament warns us that “our sins will find us out” (Numbers 32:23) and Paul says “a man reaps what he sows” (Galatians 6:7). This is not a guarantee that everyone will receive their punishment or reward for their behavior in this life. But we can be assured that nothing escapes the notice of God.

Read **Isaiah 40:12-31** and be reminded of a God who sits above everything and holds the universe in His hands. He sees you right now, the good and the bad and even knows our hearts.

Maybe one of the greatest examples of “getting a taste of your own medicine” comes from the Old Testament story of Haman, who attempted to destroy the Jewish people in the time of Esther. Read the **book of Esther** and see how Haman’s unresolved sins and deception eventually do him in.

Go back to last week’s passage in **Genesis 28:10-22** and remember the lesson Jacob learned, that God was there with him in Bethel and he did not even know it! Spend some time thinking about the places you take God with you and the places you keep God away from you.

Our Response

REFLECT as you look into these questions in your own life.

What is the unresolved sin in my life that I am afraid of coming back to get me?

Have I been living chapters of my life without God?

What do I need to do today to resolve my past and my sin and get right with the Lord?

Response at the Stations

COMMUNION - This Sunday communion is available around the room at several stations. Take the elements of the bread and the cup in remembrance of what Christ has done for you.

GIVING - We encourage you and your family to bring your offering, as your prayerful gift of worship to God, to the containers located at the stations. Offering envelopes are available in the chair racks for your use.

PRAYER - After the message, there will be prayer counselors in the Prayer Booth, located on the far right side of the auditorium, to pray with you this morning.

