

Sermon Notes



Title: "Jacob's Family Grows in Unanticipated Ways"

Text: Genesis 29:31-30:24

Theme: Even in less than ideal circumstances, God was with Jacob and his family, and the covenant family grew.

I. Jacob's First _____ Children by Leah (31-35)

- A. _____ (31-32)
- B. _____ (33)
- C. _____ (34)
- D. _____ (35)

II. Jacob's _____ Sons by Bilhah, Rachel's Maid (30:1-8)

- A. _____ (1-6)
- B. _____ (7-8)

III. Jacob's _____ Sons from Zilpah, Leah's Maid (9-13)

- A. _____ (9-11)
- B. _____ (12-13)

IV. Leah Bears _____ More Children (14-21)

- A. _____ (14-18)
- B. _____ (19-20)
- C. _____ (21)

V. Rachel Bears Her _____ Son - _____ (22-24)

VI. Applications

- A. From a positive perspective, the covenant family _____
_____.
- B. From a negative perspective, the covenant family reaped the fruit of _____ and _____ that _____ the _____ of the covenant.
- C. Marriage is difficult enough due to the _____
_____ of the couple, but when marriage itself becomes _____, the potential _____ multiply even more.

Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group:

1. Of Jacob's two wives, which one did he love and which one did he not love (29:31)?
2. How many children did Leah bear to Jacob before she stopped having children? Name them. (29:32-35)?
3. To how many children did Leah give birth (29:32-30:21)?
4. Which of Jacob's sons became the father of the priestly tribe in Israel (29:34)?
5. Which of Jacob's sons became the father of the royal line in Israel (29:35)?
6. Why was Rachel not having children (29:31b)?
7. As Leah was having children, what was Rachel's attitude (30:1)?
8. What was Rachel's solution with respect to her not bearing children (30:3)?
9. How many children did Rachel's maid bear for Jacob? What were their names (30:4-8)?
10. How many children did Leah's maid bear for Jacob? What were their names (30:9-13)?
11. What incident led to Leah's bearing more children to Jacob (30:14-18)? What children did Leah bear after this (30:17-21)?
12. What gracious gift did God grant to Rachel? What did she name the child that she bore (30:22-24)?
13. Which son's name means "praise" (29:35)?
14. Which son's name means "judge" (30:6)?
15. Which son's name means "may he add" (30:24)?
16. From which son did the Messiah descend?
17. What are some positive consequences that resulted from Jacob's family life? What are some negative consequences?
18. What do you think is the Biblical perspective that people are to have in regard to bringing children into this world? In what ways has the modern attitude toward bearing children changed from the days of Jacob? What factors do you think account for these changes? What corrective or remedy should be applied?
19. Why is marriage such a challenge when it is supposed to be a benefit and source of happiness to mankind?
20. Is there a difference between entering marriage sinfully and establishing a sinful marriage? Explain. Are there ways in which marriage itself is sinful? If so, how?