

The Long Road Home

Genesis 29:1 Then **Jacob went on his journey**, and came into the land of the people of the east. 2 And he looked, and behold a well in the field, and, lo, there *were* **three flocks** of sheep lying by it; for out of that well they watered the flocks: and a **great stone** *was* upon the well's mouth. 3 And thither were all the flocks gathered: and they rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the sheep, and put the stone again upon the well's mouth in his place. 4 And Jacob said unto them, My brethren, whence *be* ye? And they said, Of Haran *are* we. 5 And he said unto them, Know ye Laban the son of Nahor? And they said, We know *him*. 6 And he said unto them, *Is* he well? And they said, *He is* well: and, behold, **Rachel his daughter cometh with the sheep**. 7 And he said, Lo, *it is* yet high day, neither *is it* time that the cattle should be gathered together: water ye the sheep, and go *and feed them*. 8 And they said, **We cannot, until all the flocks be gathered together, and till they roll the stone from the well's mouth; then we water the sheep**. 9 And while he yet spake with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep: for she kept them. 10 And it came to pass, when **Jacob saw**

Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother. **11** And **Jacob kissed Rachel**, and lifted up his voice, and wept. **12** And **Jacob told Rachel** that he *was* her father's brother, and that he *was* Rebekah's son: and she ran and told her father. **13** And it came to pass, when Laban heard the tidings of Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embraced him, and kissed him, and brought him to his house. And he told Laban all these things. **14** And Laban said to him, Surely thou *art* my bone and my flesh. And he abode with him the space of a month. **15** And Laban said unto Jacob, Because thou *art* my brother, shouldest thou therefore serve me for nought? tell me, **what shall thy wages be?** **16** And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder *was* Leah, and the name of the younger *was* Rachel. **17** Leah *was* tender eyed; but **Rachel was beautiful and well favoured.** **18** And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter. **19** And Laban said, *It is* better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me. **20** **And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto**

him *but a few days, for the love he had to her.* 21 And Jacob said unto Laban, **Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her.** 22 And Laban gathered together all the men of the place, and **made a feast.** 23 And it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter, and brought her to him; and **he went in unto her.** 24 And Laban gave unto his daughter Leah Zilpah his maid *for an* handmaid. 25 And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it *was* Leah: and he said to Laban, What *is* this thou hast done unto me? did not I serve with thee for Rachel? wherefore then hast thou **beguiled me?** 26 And Laban said, It must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. 27 **Fulfil her week,** and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years. 28 And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also. 29 And Laban gave to Rachel his daughter Bilhah his handmaid to be her maid. 30 And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years. 31 And when the Lord saw that **Leah was hated,** he opened her womb: but Rachel *was* barren. 32 And **Leah conceived,** and bare a son, and **she called his name**

Reuben: for she said, Surely the Lord hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me. **33** And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Because the Lord hath heard that **I was hated**, he hath therefore given me this *son* also: and she called his name **Simeon**. **34** And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Now this time will my husband be joined unto me, because I have born him three sons: therefore was his name called **Levi**. **35** And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, **Now will I praise the Lord:** therefore she called his name **Judah**; and **left bearing**. **Genesis 30:1** And when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister; and said unto Jacob, **Give me children, or else I die**. **2** And Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel: and he said, **Am I in God's stead**, who hath **withheld from thee the fruit of the womb?** **3** And she said, **Behold my maid Bilhah, go in unto her;** and she shall bear upon my knees, that I may also have children by her. **4** And she gave him Bilhah her handmaid to wife: and Jacob went in unto her. **5** And Bilhah conceived, and bare Jacob a son. **6** And Rachel said, God hath judged me,

and hath also heard my voice, and hath given me a son: therefore called she his name **Dan**. 7 And Bilhah Rachel's maid conceived again, and bare Jacob a second son. 8 And Rachel said, With great wrestlings have I wrestled with my sister, and I have prevailed: and she called his name **Naphtali**. 9 When Leah saw that she had left bearing, she took Zilpah her maid, and gave her Jacob to wife. 10 And Zilpah Leah's maid bare Jacob a son. 11 And Leah said, A troop cometh: and she called his name **Gad**. 12 And Zilpah Leah's maid bare Jacob a second son. 13 And Leah said, Happy am I, for the daughters will call me blessed: and she called his name **Asher**. 14 And Reuben went in the days of wheat harvest, and found **mandrakes** in the field, and brought them unto his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, Give me, I pray thee, of thy son's mandrakes. 15 And she said unto her, *Is it* a small matter that thou hast taken my husband? and wouldest thou take away my son's mandrakes also? And Rachel said, Therefore he shall lie with thee to night for thy son's mandrakes. 16 And Jacob came out of the field in the evening, and Leah went out to meet him, and said, Thou must

come in unto me; for surely **I have hired thee with my son's mandrakes.** And he lay with her that night. 17 And God hearkened unto Leah, and she conceived, and bare Jacob the fifth son. 18 And Leah said, God hath given me my hire, because I have given my maiden to my husband: and she called his name **Issachar.** 19 And **Leah conceived again, and bare Jacob the sixth son.** 20 And Leah said, God hath endued me *with* a good dowry; now will my husband dwell with me, because I have born him six sons: and she called his name **Zebulun.** 21 And afterwards she bare a daughter, and called her name **Dinah.** 22 And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb. 23 And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach: 24 And she called his name **Joseph;** and said, The Lord shall add to me another son. 25 And it came to pass, when Rachel had born Joseph, that **Jacob said unto Laban, Send me away,** that I may go unto mine own place, and to my country. 26 **Give me** my wives and my children, for whom I have served thee, and **let me go:** for thou knowest my service which I have done thee. 27 And Laban said unto him, I pray thee, if I have found favour in thine eyes, *tarry: for I*

have learned by experience that the Lord hath blessed me for thy sake. 28 And he said, Appoint me thy wages, and I will give *it*. 29 And he said unto him, Thou knowest how I have served thee, and how thy cattle was with me. 30 For ***it was little*** which thou hadst before I *came*, and it is ***now increased unto a multitude;*** and the Lord hath blessed thee since my coming: and now when shall **I provide for mine own house also?** 31 And he said, What shall I give thee? And Jacob said, **Thou shalt not give me any thing:** if thou wilt do this thing for me, I will again feed *and* keep thy flock: 32 I will pass through all thy flock to day, **removing from thence all the speckled and spotted cattle, and all the brown cattle among the sheep, and the spotted and speckled among the goats: and of such shall be my hire.** 33 **So shall my righteousness answer for me** in time to come, when it shall come for my hire before thy face: every one that *is* not speckled and spotted among the goats, and brown among the sheep, that shall be **counted stolen** with me. 34 And Laban said, Behold, I would it might be according to thy word. 35 And he removed that day the he goats that were **ringstraked and spotted, and all the she goats that were speckled and spotted, and every one that had some**

white in it, and all the brown among the sheep, and gave *them* into the hand of his sons. 36 And he set **three days' journey betwixt himself and Jacob:** and Jacob fed the rest of Laban's flocks. 37 And Jacob took him **rods of green poplar,** and of the hazel and chesnut tree; and pilled white strakes in them, and made the white appear which *was* in the rods. 38 And he set the rods which he had pilled before the flocks in the gutters in the watering troughs when the flocks came to drink, that they should conceive when they came to drink. 39 And the flocks conceived before the rods, and brought forth cattle ringstraked, speckled, and spotted. 40 And Jacob did separate the lambs, and set the faces of the flocks toward the ringstraked, and all the brown in the flock of Laban; and he put his own flocks by themselves, and put them not unto Laban's cattle. 41 And it came to pass, whensoever the **stronger cattle did conceive,** that Jacob laid the rods before the eyes of the cattle in the gutters, that they might conceive among the rods. 42 But when the cattle were feeble, he put *them* not in: so the feebler were Laban's, and the stronger Jacob's. 43 And **the man increased exceedingly,** and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants, and camels, and asses. **Genesis 31:1** And he heard the words of

Laban's sons, saying, Jacob hath taken away all that was our father's; and of *that* which was **our father's hath he gotten all this glory.** 2 And Jacob beheld the countenance of Laban, and, behold, it was not toward him as before. 3 And **the Lord said** unto Jacob, **Return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee.** 4 And Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field unto his flock, 5 And said unto them, I see your father's countenance, that it *is* not toward me as before; but **the God of my father hath been with me.** 6 And ye know that with all my power I have served your father. 7 And **your father hath deceived me, and changed my wages ten times;** but God suffered him not to hurt me. 8 If he said thus, The speckled shall be thy wages; then all the cattle bare speckled: and if he said thus, The ringstraked shall be thy hire; then bare all the cattle ringstraked. 9 Thus God hath taken away the cattle of your father, and given *them* to me. 10 And it came to pass at the time that the cattle conceived, that I lifted up mine eyes, and **saw in a dream,** and, behold, the rams which leaped upon the cattle *were* ringstraked, speckled, and grisled. 11 And the angel of God spake unto me in a dream, *saying*, Jacob: And I said, Here *am* I. 12 And he said, Lift up now thine eyes, and

see, all the rams which leap upon the cattle *are* ringstraked, speckled, and grisled: for I have seen all that Laban doeth unto thee. **13 I am the God of Beth-el, where thou anointedst the pillar, and where thou vowedst a vow unto me: now arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy kindred.** **14** And Rachel and Leah answered and said unto him, **Is there yet any portion or inheritance for us in our father's house? 15 Are we not counted of him strangers?** for he hath sold us, and hath quite devoured also our money. **16 For all the riches which God hath taken from our father, that is ours, and our children's: now then, whatsoever God hath said unto thee, do.** **17** Then Jacob rose up, and set his sons and his wives upon camels; **18** And he carried away all his cattle, and all his goods which he had gotten, the cattle of his getting, which he had gotten in Padan-aram, **for to go to Isaac his father in the land of Canaan.** **19** And Laban went to shear his sheep: and **Rachel had stolen the images that were her father's.** **20** And Jacob **stole away unawares** to Laban the Syrian, in that he told him not that he fled. **21** So he fled with all that he had; and he rose up, and passed over the river, and set his face *toward* the mount Gilead. **22** And it was told

Laban **on the third day** that Jacob was fled. 23 And he took his brethren with him, and pursued after him **seven days' journey**; and they overtook him in the mount Gilead. 24 And **God came to Laban the Syrian in a dream by night, and said unto him, Take heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad.** 25 Then Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the mount: and Laban with his brethren pitched in the mount of Gilead. 26 And Laban said to Jacob, What hast thou done, that thou hast **stolen away unawares** to me, and carried away my daughters, as captives *taken* with the sword? 27 Wherefore didst thou **flee away secretly**, and steal away from me; and didst not tell me, that I might have sent thee away with mirth, and with songs, with tabret, and with harp? 28 And hast not **suffered me to kiss** my sons and my daughters? thou hast now done foolishly in so doing. 29 **It is in the power of my hand to do you hurt: but the God of your father spake unto me yesternight, saying, Take thou heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad.** 30 And now, *though* thou wouldest needs be gone, because thou sore longedst after thy father's house, *yet* wherefore hast thou **stolen my gods?** 31 And Jacob answered and said to Laban, Because I was afraid: for I

said, Peradventure thou wouldest take by force thy daughters from me. **32 With whomsoever thou findest thy gods, let him not live: before our brethren discern thou what is thine with me, and take it to thee. For Jacob knew not that Rachel had stolen them.** **33** And Laban went into Jacob's tent, and into Leah's tent, and into the two maidservants' tents; but he found *them* not. Then went he out of Leah's tent, and entered into Rachel's tent. **34** Now **Rachel had taken the images, and put them in the camel's furniture, and sat upon them.** And Laban searched all the tent, but found *them* not. **35** And she said to her father, Let it not displease my lord that I cannot rise up before thee; for the **custom of women** *is* upon me. And he searched, but found not the images. **36** And Jacob was wroth, and chode with Laban: and Jacob answered and said to Laban, What *is* my trespass? what *is* my sin, that thou hast so hotly pursued after me? **37** Whereas thou hast searched all my stuff, what hast thou found of all thy household stuff? set *it* here before my brethren and thy brethren, that they may judge betwixt us both. **38** This **twenty years have I been with thee;** thy ewes and thy she goats have not cast their young,

and the rams of thy flock have I not eaten. 39 That which was torn *of beasts* I brought not unto thee; I bare the loss of it; of my hand didst thou require it, *whether* stolen by day, or stolen by night. 40 *Thus* I was; in the day the **drought consumed me**, and the **frost by night**; and **my sleep departed** from mine eyes. 41 *Thus* have I been **twenty years in thy house**; I served thee fourteen years for thy two daughters, and six years for thy cattle: and **thou hast changed my wages ten times**. 42 Except the God of my father, the God of Abraham, and the fear of Isaac, had been with me, surely thou **hadst sent me away now empty**. God hath seen mine affliction and the labour of my hands, and rebuked *thee* yesternight. 43 And Laban answered and said unto Jacob, *These daughters are* my daughters, and *these children are* my children, and *these cattle are* my cattle, and all that thou seest *is* mine: and what can I do this day unto these my daughters, or unto their children which they have born? 44 Now therefore **come thou, let us make a covenant**, I and thou; and let it be for a witness between me and thee. 45 And Jacob took a stone, and set it up *for* a pillar. 46 And Jacob said unto his brethren, Gather stones; and they took stones, and made an

heap: and they did eat there upon the heap. 47 And Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha: but Jacob called it Galeed. 48 And Laban said, **This heap is a witness between me and thee this day.** Therefore was the name of it called Galeed; 49 And **Mizpah;** for he said, **The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another.** 50 If thou shalt **afflict my daughters,** or if thou shalt **take other wives** beside my daughters, no man *is* with us; see, God *is* witness betwixt me and thee. 51 And Laban said to Jacob, Behold this heap, and behold *this* pillar, which I have cast betwixt me and thee; 52 This **heap be witness,** and *this* pillar *be* witness, that I will not pass over this heap to thee, and that thou shalt not pass over this heap and this pillar unto me, for harm. 53 The God of Abraham, and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge betwixt us. And Jacob sware by the fear of his father Isaac. 54 Then Jacob offered sacrifice upon the mount, and called his brethren to eat bread: and they did eat bread, and tarried all night in the mount. 55 And early in the morning Laban rose up, and kissed his sons and his daughters, and blessed them: and Laban departed, and returned unto his place.

- The biggest problem in Jacob's life is Jacob
- Jacob will be gone from home for 20 years
- God is working in Jacob's life to build the man He will use to accomplish His purposes
- Somethings seem to only be learned in the school of hard knocks
- God has to get us ready to be used
- We have to come to the end of ourselves and what we can do before we see what He can do
- This work will go on for twenty years and be getting him ready for the real breaking that is still coming

1. Finding your life mate **29:18** *And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter. 19* *And Laban said, It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me.*

a. Jacob leaves home to find a wife per instructions from his mother

- b. Obviously God's plan for Jacob is that he get married. He is going to have many children and carry the blessing forward
- c. Jacob meets Rachel and moves the stone from the mouth of the well
- d. Jesus explained to us that marriage was always His plan
Matthew 19:4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made *them* at the beginning made them **male and female**, **5** And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and **they twain shall be one flesh?** **6**
Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.
 - i. He intended for male to marry female
 - ii. He meant for two to become one
 - iii. He meant for them to stay married

2. Head to head tricksters **29:19** And Laban said, *It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me.*

a. The deception starts

- b. Notice that Laban never said he was going to give Rachel to him or when. He just said it would be better
- c. This might not seem like much until you realize that he is constantly deceiving
- d. Jacob will serve a total of 14 years for the woman that he wanted **29:20 And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him *but a few days, for the love he had to her.* 21 And Jacob said unto Laban, **Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her.****
- e. His wages will be changed 10 times over 20 years
- f. You reap what you sow
 - i. The sad truth is that he is getting back what he did
 - ii. He dressed to deceive his dad now the wrong woman is dressed to deceive him
 - iii. The wrong woman may have walked and acted like her sister and even used her perfume
 - iv. He took advantage of the first born but that doesn't happen in the marriage
 - v. He becomes the fool at his own party for seven days
 - vi. He will be deceived and tricked just like he did to his dad

g. Jacob has to party with the wrong woman before he gets the woman he wanted **29:27 Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years. 28** And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also.

3. A broken, fighting, family like the one he ran from

a. He now has two wives

b. Each of them have a maid that will begin to be treated as a second class wife

c. Leah will have 6 sons and a daughter

i. Leah is blessed because she is not the loved wife

ii. Jacob is obviously with her but his heart is with Rachel

iii. Leah is blessed to be the mother of Levi who will be the dad of the men of God

d. In this chapter Rachel will only have one son **30:1 And when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister; and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die. 2** And Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel: and he said, **Am I in God's**

stead, who hath withheld from thee the fruit of the womb?

- i. Rachel is dying to have a child
 - ii. How I pray this prayer spiritually and hope that you do as well
 - iii. Jacob has to remind his wife that God is in charge of who has children
- e. And the maids will have 4 between them
- f. The competition between the wives shows the division between sisters **30:14** **And Reuben went in the days of wheat harvest, and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them unto his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, Give me, I pray thee, of thy son's mandrakes. 15** **And she said unto her, Is it a small matter that thou hast taken my husband? and wouldest thou take away my son's mandrakes also? And Rachel said, Therefore he shall lie with thee to night for thy son's mandrakes.**
- g. There are lots of family lessons here
- i. There should be no competition because your spouse should know that you love and accept them just like they are

- ii. There should be no using of intimacy as a means of control or manipulation
- iii. There should be no intimacy with anyone outside your spouse
- iv. Intimacy requires full acceptance, love, giving, dying to yourself

4. Jacob has paid for his wife and is ready to move on [30:25](#)

And it came to pass, when Rachel had born Joseph, that **Jacob said unto Laban, Send me away,** that I may go unto mine own place, and to my country. [26](#) **Give me** my wives and my children, for whom I have served thee, and **let me go:** for thou knowest my service which I have done thee.

- a. Laban had seen how God had bless him due to having Jacob working for him [30:27](#) And Laban said unto him, I pray thee, if I have found favour in thine eyes, *tarry: for I have learned by experience that the Lord hath blessed me for thy sake.*
- b. The men agree on a wage for Jacob
- c. Even in this wage Jacob will try to take advantage of Laban

- d. Laban will also change the rules every time that he sees that Jacob is gaining an advantage **30:30** For *it was little* which thou hadst before I *came*, and it is *now increased unto a multitude*; and the Lord hath blessed thee since my coming: and now when shall **I provide for mine own house also?**
- e. Jacob bred the strong in front of certain pilled rods or sticks **30:41** And it came to pass, whensoever the **stronger cattle did conceive**, that Jacob laid the rods before the eyes of the cattle in the gutters, that they might conceive among the rods.
 - i. Did God actually use this or was it just God blessing
 - ii. Obviously Jacob believed it was his cunning and God's blessing

5. Time to go home

- a. It has been 20 years **31:38** This **twenty years have I been with thee**; thy ewes and thy she goats have not cast their young, and the rams of thy flock have I not eaten.
- b. He spent 14 years getting his wives

- c. 6 years getting all of his cattle and riches
- d. Laban's family isn't very happy with him **31:1** And he heard the words of **Laban's sons**, saying, Jacob hath taken away all that *was* our father's; and of *that* which *was* **our father's hath he gotten all this glory.**
- e. The Lord lets Jacob know that it is time to go home **31:3** And **the Lord said** unto Jacob, **Return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee.**
- f. Jacob recognizes that God has been with him all these years **31:5** And said unto them, I see your father's countenance, that it *is* not toward me as before; but **the God of my father hath been with me.**
- g. Jacob tells his wives that their dad has been taking advantage of him **31:6** And ye know that with all my power I have served your father. **7** And **your father hath deceived me, and changed my wages ten times;** but God suffered him not to hurt me.
- h. Jacob justifies what he has done saying that God directed him to do it **31:11** And the angel of God spake unto me in a dream, *saying*, Jacob: And I said, Here *am* I. **12** And he said, Lift up now thine eyes, and see, all the rams which

leap upon the cattle *are* ringstraked, speckled, and grised: for I have seen all that Laban doeth unto thee.

- i. God reminds Jacob of the vow he vowed **31:13** **I *am* the God of Beth-el, where thou anointedst the pillar, and where thou vowedst a vow unto me: now arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy kindred.**

6. Jacob sneaks away again

- a. The daughters have lost any confidence they had in their dad **31:14** **And Rachel and Leah answered and said unto him, *Is there yet any portion or inheritance for us in our father's house? 15* Are we not counted of him strangers?** for he hath sold us, and hath quite devoured also our money.
- b. They had developed the same mercenary heart. Take what you can **31:16** **For all the riches which God hath taken from our father, that *is* ours, and our children's: now then, whatsoever God hath said unto thee, do.**
 - i. Rachel even steals her dad's idols
 - ii. Then she lies about them

- c. The only reason Laban doesn't hurt Jacob is that God is protecting him [31:24](#) **And God came to Laban the Syrian in a dream by night, and said unto him, Take heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad. 29 It is in the power of my hand to do you hurt: but the God of your father spake unto me yesternight, saying, Take thou heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad.**
- d. Laban has constantly been deceiving Jacob [31:41](#) Thus have I been **twenty years in thy house;** I served thee fourteen years for thy two daughters, and six years for thy cattle: and **thou hast changed my wages ten times.** [42](#) Except the God of my father, the God of Abraham, and the fear of Isaac, had been with me, surely thou **hadst sent me away now empty.** God hath seen mine affliction and the labour of my hands, and rebuked *thee* yesternight.
- e. As they separate they make a covenant together [31:44](#) Now therefore **come thou, let us make a covenant,** I and thou; and let it be for a witness between me and thee. [45](#) And Jacob took a stone, and set it up *for* a pillar.

49 And Mizpah; for he said, The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another.

7. Lessons to be learned

- a. Running from your problems never helps
- b. The biggest problem you have will go with you
- c. God is at work in your life building the man He will use.
- d. He will take however long it takes and take you down whatever road necessary to get you ready
- e. We must all use up our resources and get to the end of ourselves before He can or will show His power
- f. You might have lots of stuff and ability but sooner or later it wants it to be obvious that what He does was Him. He will not share His glory with anyone including us
- g. Having a strong marriage is very important in the plan of God
 - i. It will take lots of work from you
 - ii. Don't try to run from your marriage but work on your marriage
- h. There is always someone else that can deceive, use, take advantage of and trick people better than you can

- i. We reap much of what we sow so be careful what you are sowing
- j. Thank God that Jesus reaped what we sowed on Calvary
- k. Intimacy requires openness and trust. Get rid of manipulation, deceit, tricks, guilt in your marriage.
Remember you can only fix you
- l. God never leaves us no matter how far away we run or how long we are gone
- m. He is working in the least of circumstances in our lives