

Leah: Ugly Sister And Unloved Wife

(Genesis 29:1-30:21; 49:29-32)

Listen to intro song, "You Say," sung by Lauren Daigle on YouTube at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8WK9HmF53w>.

I. **THE WORTH OF A WOMAN**

A. **The Standard** (29:17; 30:20)—What makes us worthy?

1. **Beauty**—*sex appeal, romance*; I will be chosen and loved.
2. **Fertility**—*motherhood, descendents*; I will be respected, valued.

B. **The Judge**—upon whose approval we rest our identity and worth
Allowing any creature to define us and determine our value is recipe for misery.

II. **THE PAIN OF LEAH**

A. **OVERLOOKED** (Ps 139:17-18)—unnoticed, overshadowed

1. **God is watching.** (Gen 29:31-33; Ps 33:18-19 & 34:15)
2. **Jesus understands.** (Isa 53:2)

B. **UNDERVALUED** (1 Sam 16:7; Prov 31:30)

1. **Physical Beauty Is Overrated by Men.**
 - a. It is deceptive. A beautiful form can hide an ugly personality.
 - b. It won't last. An unstable foundation upon which to base our worth
2. **Spiritual Beauty Is Prized by God.** – genuine, eternal, cultivated

C. **UNLOVED** (29:30-31)

1. **Jacob did not want Leah.**
2. **God loved her.**
 - a. Noted by God (Prov 30:21-23)—*not fair* that she was an unloved wife
 - b. Favored by God
 - c. Loved by Her Children (Gen 30:14)

III. **THE STRUGGLE OF LEAH** (Gen 30:8, 15)

- A. **Insecurity**—*Am I enough?*
- B. **Competition**—*female rivalry when we could have friendship, support*
- C. **Frustration** (Hosea 2:6, 14-20)—*No mere man can bear the weight of worship; only Jesus is worthy!*
 - 1. **Idolatry (misplaced worship) will always disappoint.**
 - 2. **God meets us in our disappointment.**

IV. **THE ANSWER OF JESUS**

- A. **He has established our worth.** (Mat 15:41; 28:7-8; Mk 15:41; Lk 8:1-3; Acts 16:13; Gal 3:28; 1 Pet 1:18-19)
 - 1. **By His Example**—granted equal dignity and respect to women
 - 2. **By His Blood**—no distinction between male & female
- B. **He makes us beautiful.** (Ecc 3:11; Isa 61:3)
 - 1. **He sees your beauty.** (Gen 1:27; Ps 45:11, 13)—unique expression of God's beauty
 - 2. **He perfects your beauty.** (Eph 5:25-32)—washes away sins, covers our deficiencies
 - 3. **He delights in your beauty.** (Ps 45:11; Eph 5:27; Jude 1:24)—presents you without fault and *with great joy*.
- C. **He is the THE MAN whose love is worth everything.** (Ps 68:11 [NIV]; Lk 7:38; Jn 12:3-4)

Listen to "Be Unto Your Name," sung by Robin Mark, on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQvi7AFXv0c>.

Lesson 3: Leah

Read Genesis 29:1-30:24 and 49:29-31.

1. Put yourself in Leah's place.

- a.) What makes you feel inferior and insecure?
- b.) What one thing do you believe you need to enjoy life and be fulfilled as a woman?
- c.) Why can't you have it?
- d.) Who do you blame for the situation?
- e.) What incredible blessings do you have? Are you able to enjoy them?

2. What evidence do you find in the text that God feels for Leah and views her situation as unfair?

3. What evidence do you find in the text that Leah's relationship with God develops through her sad situation?

4. What great honors does God bestow upon Leah? (See Gen 49:29-31 and Mat 1:1-3.)

5. Now think about your own life.

- a.) What makes you feel inferior and insecure as a woman?
- b.) About what do you find yourself thinking, "If only I had..., life would be good!" or "My life can never be right unless or until..."?
- c.) When you think about it, what drives this desire? What are you looking to this person or thing to do for you?
- d.) Who or what stands in the way of this desire being fulfilled? (Who do you blame?)
- e.) What incredible blessings has God given you? Are you able to fully enjoy them? Why or why not?

6. How can you tell when a desire is legitimate and God-honoring and when it crosses the line into idolatry?

7. How does your faith respond to the great unmet desires of your heart?