

Jacob: Prayers & Pregnancies

Week 6 Study Questions

[Genesis 29:30–35, 30:1–24](#)

As we continue looking at the life of Jacob, we come to a story of his wives, Rachel and Leah. While Rachel had the love of her husband but lacked the ability to have children, Leah could have children and lacked the love of Jacob. Both wives were anchored in one worldly thing and craving another, revealing to us that no worldly person or thing can ever satisfy and fill the need of our soul.

Application

1. Leah thinks that by bearing sons for Jacob, she will gain what she truly craves (Jacob's love). In our pain, struggle, and losses, it is revealed to us what we crave the most. What do you crave? What material or worldly creations do you tend to place your hope in? What is the "dream" that you are tempted to sacrifice anything for? How does it feel when that idol does not satisfy you?
2. Rachel circumvents what God is doing to get what she wants based on her own drive, envy, and jealousy. What is driving you to want to take shortcuts in your life? Where are you "shaving off the edges" to control circumstances or people to try and make sure your desires are realized? (e.g. to get a promotion, to be accepted by that group of people, to gain the affection of that person, to have a child, to make sure your child is accepted or successful, etc.)
3. When Rachel exclaims, "I am winning!"—who was she actually competing with? Leah or God? Who do you feel competitive with in your life? How might you be fighting God's plan instead of actually fighting that person? How can that change your relationship with them, or how can you love them better?
4. What is the wound that drives you (e.g. a loss, failure, criticism, or inadequacy)? What are some ways you are building your identity around this wound instead of finding your identity in God?

Key Points

- Legitimate desires become a corrupted obsession when we orient our identity around them.
- Instead of performing to win the approval of man, let us be content in winning the love of the Father. When we trust in him, we get a new identity that cannot be created by performance.

- When we are suffering or feel wounded, we place demands on people to meet needs deep inside of us that no person on earth can bear the weight of—only God can bear this weight of our soul.
- The challenge of faith is that it directs you away from your own desires and illusion of control and turns you back into the arms of the God who you can't control, but who is ultimately good, trustworthy, and FOR you.
- People who have to control anything and everything around them end up alone.
- There is a tough line between perseverance and striving. Perseverance is more about working on what you can work on while being steady in your faith and under the authority of biblical community and God's Word, while striving seem to be about hiding and manipulating to get what you want.