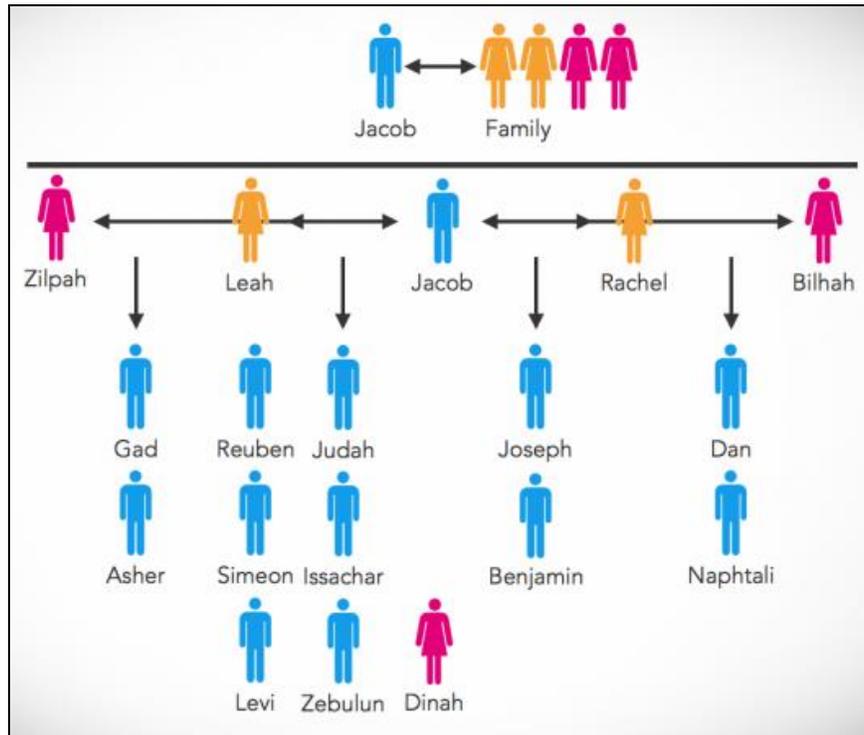


# WINTER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2015-2016

## THEME: SACRED GIFTS AND HOLY GATHERINGS

### UNIT TWO – “Sharing Our Joys and Sorrows”

## “JACOB DISCOVERS THE HIGH COST OF TRUE LOVE”



### Sunday School Lesson No. V – January 3, 2016

Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher

**Lesson Text:** Genesis 29:15-30 (This lesson includes vv. 1-14)

**Required Reading:** Genesis 2:24-25; 29:1 – 30:24

**Memory Text:** Genesis 29:20, 30, “*And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her... And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years.*”

Galatians 6:7, “*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*”

**Reliable Resources:** Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Bible Knowledge Commentary; Precepts for Living (UMI Publishing); Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Life Application Study Bible (Tyndale)

### INTRODUCTION

Jacob left the place where he met God at Bethel. Now in Chapter 29, he arrives at the destination contrived by his mother to choose a wife from her people, and also to avoid Esau’s wrath! God was kind to him, showing grace, but there were many lessons of discipline Jacob had yet to learn. Perhaps one of them was, “How does it feel to be deceived out of what is rightfully yours?” (Read Genesis 27:1-36 – Esau’s Lamentation). There are many ways to approach this lesson, but I will use the irony of sowing and reaping, using the love of Jacob and the cunning of Laban his uncle/father-in-law. After deceiving his father Isaac and brother Esau with the help of his mother Rebekah, Jacob, afraid of Esau’s wrath in the theft of his birthright, travels many miles to the place of his mother’s nativity to seek a wife from his matriarchal family side.

It is from this setting in life that he learns the high cost of true love! Paul writes in I Corinthians 13:4-7 several truths concerning true love that one should stop and read. Now let us examine the text to see how much Jacob is willing to pay to receive his true love.

## Anticipated Power Points:

- **Destination Reached. Genesis 29:1-8**
- **Discovery of Rachel. Genesis 29:9-12**
- **Dinner at Laban's. Genesis 29:13-14**
- **Daughters of Laban. Genesis 29:15-17**
- **Deal of the Century. Genesis 29:18-21**
- **Deceiver Deceived. Genesis 29:22-29**
- **Delightfulness of the Soul. Genesis 29:30**

## LESSON OUTLINE

### I. Destination Reached. Genesis 29:1-8

By an act of God's providential grace, Jacob leaves Bethel and arrives at Padan-aram, the home of Rebekah and her brother, Laban. He inquires of the local shepherds, and discovers that this place is his divine destination.

### II. Discovery of Rachel. Genesis 29:9-12

Upon inquiring about Laban, Rachel his daughter appears to water his sheep. The local shepherds inform Jacob as to her identity. Jacob was so moved by her appearance that, I believe, he was in love at first sight. He greets her according to their custom, and he waters her flocks with enthusiasm. When she discovers his identity, she runs home to tell her father, Laban.

### III. Dinner at Laban's. Genesis 29:13-14

Laban returns and invites his sister's son into his home, showing him the best of eastern culture and hospitality.

### IV. Daughters of Laban. Genesis 29:15-17

Laban offers Jacob wages for his labor. I have no doubt that Jacob told him he sought a wife, but Jacob had no dowry with which to purchase a wife. He showed Laban his willingness to serve, perhaps while residing with him that month. We also meet Laban's daughters – Leah the oldest, whose features by the eyes were not the customary look of their people; and Rachel the fiery-eyed younger daughter whose beauty stole Jacob's heart.

### V. Deal of the Century. Genesis 29:18-21

Jacob desired Rachel as his wife, and pledged to work for Laban as an indentured servant for seven years, to purchase the right to marry her. His love for her made the seven years seem as a few days (the beauty of true love!) When the seven years had ended, Jacob came forth to claim his bride.

### VI. Deceiver Deceived. Genesis 29:22-29

It is here where the hand of sowing and reaping intervened. Laban switched daughters on Jacob, and in the darkness of the marriage tent, gave him Leah the oldest. This switch was not discovered by Jacob until the morning after the consummation of the marriage. Jacob the deceiver of Esau and Isaac had been totally outwitted by his uncle/father-in-law. The deceiver had been deceived. Galatians 6:7 warns us, ***"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."*** Upon an explanation of the customs by Laban, Jacob agreed to fulfill the marriage celebration week of Leah, and afterwards receive Rachel to wife, then work seven more years for Laban his father-in-law. Beloved, God's discipline is far-reaching and seeks to turn one's heart totally unto Him. Hebrews 12:11, ***"Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."***

### VII. Delightfulness of the Soul. Genesis 29:30

At last, Jacob gets the woman of his dreams. True love is worth waiting for! I Cor. 13:13, ***"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."*** He discovers the high cost of true love!

## CLOSING:

Jacob's experience in the land of Padan-aram was one of sitting in God's classroom. God had plans for Jacob, but Jacob had to come to an end of himself in order to hear the voice of God! Galatians 6:7 truly declares, ***"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."*** God's classroom of discipline may be in a hospital, cemetery, family conflict, etc. But it is a fact of truth: God will take us to school in order to fully use us!

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**TV Telecast: WHNO TV-Channel 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.**

**Looking Ahead:    January 10, 2016      Song of Solomon 6:4-12      **HAPPY NEW YEAR!****

