

July 30 & 31, 2022

Throughout the Jacob story, the word “love” is prominent. At the very beginning, we already see that Jacob’s mother loved him, but that his father loved his twin brother, Esau. When he later arrived at his mother’s family in Haran, the first person he saw was Rachel, and he immediately fell head-over-heels in love with her. In Jacob’s life, human love is present but it is distorted into favoritism.

This part of the Jacob story is about his marriage and family, and the kind of in-laws you wouldn’t wish on your worst enemy. This text is in two parts. In the first part (verses 21-30), Jacob gets married twice! In the second part (31-35), his first wife, Leah, bears him four sons. The first part is about deceiving, as his father-in-law Laban tricks Jacob into marrying the wrong daughter. The second part is about conceiving, as God has mercy on the unloved Leah and blesses her with children. In both parts, we see characters searching for love and coming away unsatisfied. Through all distortions of human love - the favoritism and unfulfilled longing - we’ll see that God, the Source of perfect love, is working out His plan.

Part 1: Laban Deceives: Jacob’s Wives (29:21-30)

- The cheater is a fact of life (Psalm 49:5-6) but victims entrust themselves to God (10:4)
- Jacob the trickster meets another, even better, trickster in Laban
- Our story of brokenness, sin, and shame is written in black and white for the whole world to see
- God is in the process of purifying our love

Part 2: Leah Conceives: Jacob’s Sons

- God loves the unloved
- Though Leah’s husband fails to love her, she finds God on her side

Application

- The Well: at another well she shows perfect love to the unloved
- The Son: from the unloved one (Leah) would come the world’s Savior

WILLINGDON CHURCH ELDERS

Phil Balzer	Ray Harms-Wiebe	Ken Redekopp	Ed Thiessen
John Best	Ruben Heyn	Mark Reimer	Wayne Wiebe
Roman Bondartchouk	Danny Lee	Rick Reimer	Rick Wilson
Ken Dyck	Paul Lee	Vince Reimer	
Jim Eisenhauer	Mark Loewen	Willy Reimer	
Alfred Gomez	Dave Marshall	Norm Schmidt	

Please continue to pray for the elders.

If you wish to contact an elder, please email elders@willingdon.org.