

Jacob Meets His In-Laws

Sunday, June 7/20 --- Genesis 29 – 31

I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and made a vow to me. Now arise, go out from this land and return to the land of your kindred... (Genesis 31:13)

... looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. (Hebrews 12:2)

Thankfully I am not the author of my own personal story. Your story isn't an autobiography either. Your story is a biography of wisdom and grace written by another. Every turn He writes into your story is right. Every twist of the plot is for the best. Every new character or unexpected event is a tool of His grace. Each new chapter advances His purpose. – Paul Tripp

The main thing is to keep the main thing, the main thing. – Anon.

Introduction:

It is easy to lose sight of the main story line in Genesis when we read about the side-stories recorded. Each of these serve a purpose, but not alone. They are a collection of sub-plots designed to show us what God is up to in the lives of His chosen servants as the grand story of redemptive history is told. Our lives also have a primary story-line... but it is often not the one we pay most attention to.

Sermon Outline:

1. Sub-Plot One: Jacob's Marriage (Ch. 29)

2. Sub-Plot Two: Jacob's Children (Ch. 30)

3. Sub-Plot Three: Jacob's Escape (Ch. 31)

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- i. If someone followed you around for a month what might they conclude about the main plot of your life? What would some of the sub-plots be?
- ii. What are some of the key themes that God is circling back to in the story-line of your life? How are you responding to Him? It would be good to share this with someone.
- iii. What 'growth' do you see in Jacob's life in these chapters? What 'forces' is God using to shape and stretch his faith? How do you identify with Jacob?