

Just Cause it Looks Ugly, Doesn't Mean It Ain't Blessed

Sermon

Gen 29:16-17, 30-35

Background: Jacob's uncle had two daughters and he is tricked into marrying the older daughter, but he is in love with the younger daughter named Rachel.

Verse 16 – Leah = weary, Rachel = ewe.

Verse 17 - Leah was older and tender eyed = one preacher said she would make your eyes hurt. Some theorize that it means she had soft eyes or that the only good looking part about her was her eyes. Rachel was a dime.....Leah was pushing a nickel.

Verse 30 – Jacob loved Rachel more. Hated which is a Hebrew idiom meaning she wasn't preferred. Wasn't the one you wanted to hang out with. Second string. Left over and passed over. Anybody ever have a Leah season?

- Season where you wanted something or someone but they didn't want you.
- Wanted the job, but they preferred someone else; wanted the promotion but they passed over you.
- Leah season, where things in your life looked ugly, things looked so bad, you got tired of looking at your own situation.
- Anybody know about a Leah season, when things just looked bad and everybody around you is tired of looking at your situation. Other folks tired of hearing about your problems. Your problems wearing people out, your behavior getting on other folk's nerves...get outta my sight boy.
- A Leah season....anybody ever have one, when all you want is to be loved by those around you but you always feel left out, you looking for true love or for someone to love you back but they love somebody else....anybody been there.
 - Brandy....she was a fine girl, and what a good wife she would be.
- You may be in a Leah season.....some things looking kinda ugly. Some people who you like and want to see hang around you and be a part of you, don't want to be with you anymore.
- Leah season, you looking for blessings but don't seem to be happening for you?
- Finances ugly, love life tore up from the floor up, job situation ugly, health situation ain't looking real good, life ain't working out like you thought it would...what's up Leah?
- Leah was tender eyed, anybody ever have a Leah season when you crying your eyes out because your situation looks so bad?
- All Leah wanted was to be connected and favored by her husband but she didn't look good enough.

Verse 31 – God saw that Leah was hated so He blessed her. God saw she was being done wrong so He blessed her. Before things were not working right, but when God found out she was being done wrong,

He opened up some things for her.....and closed it for others. God sees when folks talk about you, He sees when people don't want to hang around you, He sees when people prefer other places than your place...so don't worry....He will turn things around in your favor...he sees your situation. You might have to wait awhile...Leah had to wait about 9 months, but when you are treated badly and your situation looks bad, God sees it, if you wait on Him and don't clown, He will open doors for you. Just cause it looks ugly doesn't mean God can't bless it.

Verse 32 – Leah conceived. God allowed something to get started on the inside....she still looked the same on the outside....but on the inside....a change was taking place. God works from the inside out and what God blessed her with on the inside started to come out...it started to show. So what was inside had to come out so everyone else could see she was blessed. Somebody gonna see on the outside what He allowed to happen to you on the inside.

- When God puts a peace on the inside of you...oh praise is going to come out.
- When God puts a new hope inside of you....oh joy unspeakable is gonna come out.
- When God puts his super inside your natural....the super natural will come out.
- But if God hasn't put anything new in you then only thing coming out of your mouth is flesh.
- Son is named Reuben = behold a son. First step. Note. Keep track of the names and meaning of these sons.
- Names him that because he is relief or God's answer to her affliction and misery. Because of this first born son, she concludes that things will turn in her favor.

Verse 33 – Right after that, she gives birth again. Her rationale is God wasn't finished. The first son was just the beginning, which means God was just getting started. More to come.

- Simeon = heard or hearing with acceptance.
- Because God heard that she was still hated, He blessed her again.

Verse 34 – Just pushing them out now. Now this time she will be joined because she is so fruitful.

- Levi = joined to; he was set apart for service of the sanctuary.

Verse 35 – Now will I praise the Lord. For each blessing and result, she names her son as a remembrance and maybe a message to us. What's the message? There's a message in her testimony.

Reuben (see a son), Simeon (God has heard), and joined me to Him (Levi), Judah (I will praise).

Behold a son, so God will hear me and I will be joined to him so I will praise the Lord.

Used this at work to walk in victory on my job.

- After Judah she took a break. After 4 sons, there's a gap or break. After the praise there might be a period or break...but don't worry...Leah has more kids...which means between your broken hearted and ugly season and getting God's best....in the middle is praise.

- Praise because what He starts, He finishes. Rick – worship Him until He comes back again, with anticipation.

Her 5th Son – Issachar = there is recompense; we will get a reward for this. He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Her 6th Son – Zebulun = exalted. Her last son ends in exaltation.....it's part of God's plan for Leah, and it can be your plan too if you follow the steps and behold the Son.

I named my daughter Rachel.

While I'm standing in the gap waiting for my next miracle, my next blessing, my reward....I'll praise Him right now for what He's already done for me.....Praise Him in advance for what He's going to do because He's not through yet, His best is on the way because He said He'll never leave us or forsake us, and He who began a good work in you He is faithful to complete it.

Just remember the key message....Leah named her kids so that in hard times she had a constant reminder to praise.