

April 19, 2026

Pastor Andy McClellan

Title: “Lies and a Labor of Love”

Series: Genesis: Beginnings

Text: Genesis 29:1-30

1. God's **UNSEEN HAND** to guide and strengthen, vv. 1-14 (*see also 24:12-29; 28:2, 15-16; Isaiah 41:8-10; Proverbs 16:9; Habakkuk 1:5; Romans 8:28*).
2. God's **MERCIFUL DISCIPLINE** to bring consequences with blessings, vv. 14-27 (*see also 27:43-45; Numbers 32:23; Galatians 6:7; Hebrews 12:5-11; Revelation 3:19*).
3. God's **REDEEMING WORK** to form a blessed people, vv. 23-30, 35 (*see also 12:2; 28:3-4, 14; 49:8-10; Ezekiel 48:1-29; Matthew 1:1-2; Titus 2:13-14*).

FOR FURTHER STUDY & DISCUSSION

1. Describe a time when you believed God was working behind the scenes in your life. What role did you play, and what evidence was there that God was at work? Read Gen. 28:15 & 29:1-30. What role did Jacob play in moving this story along and where do we see evidence of God's unseen hand? How does this show us the importance of both God's guidance and our meaningful choices?
2. How is Jacob's search for a wife different from Abraham's servant's search in terms of prayer and dependence on God for decision-making (see Gen. 24:4, 12, 21, 26-27)? What might this tell us about their respective relationships with God? When you are faced with a decision or you're pursuing something, do you tend to be more like Jacob or Abraham's servant? What might this reveal about growth that needs to happen in your life? What is something you can do this week to remind yourself of your dependence on God?
3. What does it mean in Galatians 6:7 that “a man reaps what he sows”? How have you experienced that truth in your life? Given how similar Laban's deception of Jacob in 29:21-30 is to Jacob's deception of his father in ch. 27:1-24, how could this an example of Jacob reaping what he has sown? While some have referred to it as “poetic justice,” how is it better seen as an example of God's discipline (see also Hebrews 12:5-11)?
4. Why is God's discipline when we sin an act of His mercy on us? What does it train us to do and not do? How does it reveal His love for us as our Father? With that in mind, how should that influence our response to God when we find ourselves under his discipline for our sin?
5. Because of Laban's deception, four women are added to Jacob's immediate family. Who are they and why do they become significant for the future of the people of Israel (see the cross references in point #3 above)? How do they bring about God's promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to make their family a blessing to the nations (see Matt. 1:1-2)? What does this tell us about God's ability to use man's evil intentions for good purpose in His plans? How is that encouraging to you as we live in a world full of people with evil intentions?

NEXT WEEK: Genesis 29:31-30:24, Pastor Asa Hart

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