

Bible Summary -Genesis 30

The Problem of Evil

Jacob has been cheated by his uncle Laban “ten” times (Genesis 31:41). It would be easy for him to ruminate about this problem and get depressed. However, Jacob continues to press on without any record of him trying to get even with Laban. Instead Genesis 30 records that Jacob, in spite of Laban’s attempts to cheat him, becomes extremely wealthy. In his testimony to his wives in chapter 31 he gives all the credit to God. In this chapter, the freed slaves who had lived their whole life under the thumb of a greater cheater called Pharaoh are learning that God will deal with evil and you can’t be cheated out of what God has for you.

Scriptures: Genesis 30:25-43, 31:7,12; Matthew 5:21-30; 2 Peter 3:9; Genesis 4:23; Revelation 5:5-6, 12:11; Psalm 23:6, 84:11; Romans 8:32; Isaiah 26:3; Romans 8:36-37

Bible Questions and Application

(These are here as an aid in facilitating conversation.

There is no obligation to run through **every** question listed.)

1. Have you ever felt that your background or circumstances have set you back in life? (such as your parents, how rich or poor you were).
 - a. We tend to ruminate on those things. Ruminating is the tendency to repeatedly dwell on things of the past which we wish had turned out differently. How can ruminating be unhealthy?
 - b. Knowing that we cannot be cheated out of what God has planned for us, how can we overcome this tendency to ruminate?
2. What are some ways we can be encouraged during times it seems the evil are prospering?
3. Matt said, “Evil in the Bible is never resolved.” Have you grown tired of resisting evil?
4. Please share about a time when you felt cheated out of something which God still worked out according to His plan in the end.
 - a. Do we really believe that we cannot be cheated out of what God has for us?
 - b. How should the knowledge that Christ has won the game (victory over evil) change how you play your game?