



Series: Genesis

Passage: Genesis 29:30-30:31

Title: Sovereignty in Chaos

Speaker: Pastor David Menard, 2/12/2023

Discussion Starter – What new observations and understanding did you gain this week as it relates to the interaction between God’s sovereignty and man’s choice?

Read Genesis 29:30-35

1. At this point in Jacob’s life, which actions and decisions has he made that are in conformance with God’s promised blessing and plan for his life?
2. Which actions and decisions has Jacob made that are according to his own will?
3. What does it look like to work hard for God’s kingdom in your own methods or strength?
4. In what ways has Jacob and his family’s lives got messier as he continues to direct his own path (Proverbs 3:5-6)?
5. What thoughts might Leah have experienced during her early years of marriage to Jacob?
6. What do we see taking place in Leah’s life as she continues to bear children for Jacob?

Read Genesis 30:1-24

7. What is the emotional and spiritual state of Rachel and Jacob at this point in the story? How are they similar? How are they different?
8. What do you think motivated Rachel to request Jacob go into Bilhah to bear a son for her?
9. How much do you think the cultural norms of the day impacted their decision?
10. What lessons can we learn about cultural norms that are not in alignment with God’s word?
11. What are some of the cultural norms do we see today, even in the church, that are not in alignment with God’s word?
12. Why do you think Rachel desired the mandrakes Ruben picked? What did she trade for them?
13. What does it indicate about the condition of her and her trust in the Lord’s timing?
14. Describe how you think God remembered and listened to Rachel? What does this mean?

Read Genesis 30:25-31

15. How many children and how many years have passed when Jacob asked to return to Canaan?
16. What does Jacob’s reference to “my own place” reveal about him?
17. Why did Laban want Jacob to remain in Haran? Why did Jacob agree? What is revealed about Jacob’s priorities?
18. Describe how God’s sovereign plan is moving forward even while Jacob’s family and life is a mess.
19. Read Joshua 1:7-8 and Psalm 1. What has God provided as a foundation for a fruitful life? How are we to respond to it?
20. How were you impacted and in awe of God’s sovereignty, by the Gospel of Jesus Christ being revealed in the names of Jacob’s 12 sons, the twelve tribes of Israel?