



Series: Genesis

Passage: Genesis 30:25-31:12

Title: The Illusion of Control

Speaker: Pastor David Menard, 2/19/2023

Discussion Starter – In what sense is our own control of things just an illusion? As Christians, what kinds of things are we supposed to have control over?

Read Genesis 30:25-43

1. What do you think Jacob is trying to convey to Laban when he asks him to “send me away”?
2. What similar tactic does Laban use to entice Jacob to stay longer and work for him?
3. Have you ever had a time in your life where you stayed at a job too long just for the money? What was the result and what were the lessons you learned?
4. What deal did Jacob come up with and where do you think he got the idea from?
5. How does Laban try to sweeten the deal in his favor?
6. Describe in your own words the animal husbandry technics Jacob uses to produce more speckled and spotted animals? Do you think this was deceitful or part of God’s designed plan? Why or why not? Read Genesis 31:12-13. What additional insights are gained from these passages?

Sermon Application Questions:

7. We know that God blesses Jacob abundantly because of the covenant promise to Abraham. As Christians what are some of the promises of blessing we can hold on to? Read 1 Corinthians 2:9-16, Philippians 1:6 and Romans 8:1-2. What are the blessings described in these verses, and how do we apply them in our walk with God?
8. In what ways do you think Jacob is trying to still earn God’s blessing? What are some of the reasons why we as Christians are prone to try to earn God’s favor?
9. We know that God’s love for us is uncaused by us. God has given us the right to choose what we do. How do we know when we are falling into the trap of still trying to earn God’s blessings instead of receiving them freely in Jesus? What are some key indicators we can watch out for?