



Series: Genesis

Passage: Genesis 31:1-21

Title: Jacob's Conflict

Speaker: Pastor David Menard, 2/26/2023

Discussion Starter – What has this message revealed to you about the source of conflicts in our relationships and methods to address these conflicts?

Read Genesis 31:1-3

1. Do you think Jacob's great wealth is the fullness of God's blessing? Explain
2. What was the status of Jacob's relationship with Laban?
3. Describe God's message to Jacob at this time in his life? Was this a new or old message?
 - a. *Is there a message God has been speaking to you over a prolonged period that requires a response?*

Read Genesis 31:4-13

4. How does Jacob see his own behavior over the past 20 years? Do you think this portrayal is a full and accurate description of what has really happened? Why or why not?
5. C.S. Lewis wrote: "When Sin Mutes Our Hearing, God May Speak Again In Pain". What lesson do you think God was showing Jacob about the importance of taking responsibility for our relationships?
6. What sin might Jacob have been harboring by not taking any personal responsibility for his contributions to the current situation? What might he have done differently to have a better relationship with God and Laban?
 - b. *Have you ever had a view of your past actions that is skewed more favorably to you? How did that view affect you and your relationships?*

Read Genesis 31:14-16

7. What dysfunctions do you see being revealed between Laban and his daughters?
8. What is the general status of all the relationships within this extended family?
 - c. *Are there damaged relationships in your life that are rooted in self-centered behaviors?*
 - d. *How can you address them in a God glorifying way?*

Read Genesis 31:17-21

9. What do you think Jacob is trying to avoid as he flees Haran in this passage? Why flee now?
10. How would you define Passive-Aggressive behavior?
11. When are you more likely to exhibit Passive Aggressive behavior? Describe what it feels like to be the recipient of Passive Aggressive behavior?
12. How does Passive Aggressive behavior affect our relationships?
13. What is the ultimate irony of Passive Aggressive behavior as a relationship practice?
 - e. *As a recipient of Passive Aggressive behaviors in our relationships, what are the 2 actions mentioned in the sermon we are to avoid? What are some other examples you can think of to avoid?*
 - f. *As a recipient of Passive Aggressive behavior in a relationship, what are 2 actions mentioned in the sermon we are to adopt? What are some other examples you can think of to adopt?*