

In this episode of Jacob's life, we discover what he *Sees*, *Does*, and *Receives* as a result.

Seeing (verses 15-17) — Jacob sees the beautiful Rachel at the well, and desires her. Laban sees a chance to exploit Jacob's love for Rachel by making him labor. *What Leah sees, however, is less clear.* She is described as having "weak eyes". The word for "weak" (רַח - *rach*) also means *tender, spoiled, inexperienced, or coddled*. "Eyes" throughout the Bible, beyond just being physical organs for sight, repeatedly refer to *knowledge or wisdom*. When a person "sees" something, they *know something* about it, and moreover, can make a true *judgment* about it. Leah's "weak eyes" may give us a hint that she is perhaps a bit naive and immature, which we see more moving forward.

Doing (vss 18-20) — Jacob *works* for 7 years in order to marry Rachel. A slave was only to work 6 years and be freed the 7th in later Israel (Ex 21:1-6). A typical bride price was 50 shekels (Dt 22:29) and a typical worker received 1 shekel per month (according to Gordon Wenham), so Jacob is essentially offering *more than* slavery, and *more than* the typical bride price (1 shekel/month, for 7 years, is 84 shekels). He wants to *do* everything he can to ensure that he marries Rachel. We don't know any other details about those 7 years, except that they were like "a few days" to Jacob. They flew by.

Receiving (vss 21-30) — Jacob receives a trick. Like he had done repeatedly to his own family members, Laban gives him a taste of his own medicine. He dresses Leah up as Rachel and Jacob doesn't notice and marries her. He tricks Jacob into marrying the wrong girl, and serving up 7 more years of work. Leah's "weak eyes" allow her to go along with the wicked plot, and Jacob ends up with more familial strife as a result.

For us:

- Be careful of making rash deals based on what you *see* alone; based on infatuation. This relates particularly to relationships: romantic, friendly, or even business.
- Remember that true love *works*. Though Jacob's initial infatuation may have been shallow, it very quickly turned into true love, and the 7 years of work seemed like no time because of his love.
- Trials purify our character. Despite the awful wreck of a situation this was, Jacob's character is purified, and his trickery ceases. Furthermore, God raises up the Levites, as well as Judah—the tribe from which King David came and, ultimately, Jesus Christ came—from *Jacob's marriage to Leah*. The wife who was an afterthought, the unloved, the overlooked, and the weak eyed bore Judah and ultimately the Messiah. God indeed draws straight with crooked lines.

Communion Meditation:

Jacob showed determination in his love for Rachel, being content to serve for a total of 14 years for the sake of his beloved Rachel. Indeed, love is a powerful impulse, causing people to do all types

of crazy things. The great book of love poetry in the Scriptures, the Song of Songs, says in chapter 8 that “love is *strong as death*, jealousy is fierce as the grave. . . . Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.”

Nothing shows the depth and the character of love, like *death*. The weight of the sins of the world, the prospect of the curse laid upon Him by His Father, the floods of anguish experienced in the Garden of Gethsemane, none of these could quench the love of our Savior.

And this love was *demanding*. It demanded everything from Him, not because He was just “playing the martyr”, but because the weight of our transgressions called for our condemnation. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. So that we could be forgiven. So that we could be counted righteous.

We come before Him now, already forgiven, through the great act of love Jesus worked on our behalf, and able now to summit the mountain to dine with Him in peace! This meal is for those who are at peace with God. Those who have been baptized into the Triune Name. Those who are members in good standing of Christ’s body, the Church.

This is the joyful feast of the *beloved* People of God.

Word of Commission:

Tomorrow is Monday. Perhaps there are trials or difficulties that await you. Perhaps God is in the midst of sanctifying you through

trials, whether small or great. Jacob had 7 good years of service for Laban, that went by in a flash. But these were followed by 7 bad years of service, full of strife and trouble.

Jacob's son, Joseph, oversaw 7 good years of plenty in Egypt, but these were followed by 7 bad years of famine and hunger.

But in each case, the reserves saved up in the good years — whether of expectation and love for Rachel in Jacob's case, or of grain and food saved up in Joseph's case — these reserves built resolve for the difficult times that followed, in which God did wondrous and unexpected things.

Notice it was in the 7 bad years that God saved His people: Jacob had the long- promised sons, and Joseph was reunited with his family and moved them to Egypt to save them from famine.

The Lord's day is a day of rest and gladness, and it is the *first day of the week*! This means that Monday through Saturday *follow it*. So soak up the grace and goodness of the Lord today, and go in the power of His love into the days that follow, no matter what God has put before you. It is in these ordinary days of life that God is working your salvation out in your life.