

“Jacob and His Family - Learning to Trust”
Bible Stories Sermon Series, Pt. 10 - Genesis 29-31
October 7, 2018

I. Life’s Twists and Turns for Leah and Jacob

- A. Leah’s life did not go according to her plan.
 - 1. She was an unloved wife sharing her husband with her prettier sister Rachel.
 - 2. Even bearing children before Rachel did not ease her suffering.
 - 3. Yet by the time of Judah’s birth, Leah, by God’s grace, had been made able to praise the Lord (Gen. 29:35).
- B. Jacob’s life did not go according to his plan.
 - 1. Laban tricked Jacob into marrying Leah before Rachel, while cheating him out of 7 additional years.
 - 2. Rachel, his beloved, became a source of frustration (Gen. 30:1-2).
 - 3. Laban worked Jacob to the bone for 20 years.
 - 4. Laban became Jacob’s enemy when Jacob out-prospered him.
 - 5. Yet through these trials, Jacob was finally made able to truly see and appreciate the Lord’s work in his life (Gen. 31:42).

II. Life’s Twists and Turns for Us

- A. Life rarely, if ever, turns out as we planned or hoped it would.
- B. Our Sovereign Lord uses the trials of life to deepen our sense of need for Him, and Him only.

Genesis 15:1 - After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.”