

WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND ~ Genesis 29:14-30

→ Scripture Reading Hebrews 12:4-7

BRIDAL PRICE NEGOTIATED ~ Genesis 29:14-20

[14] ... After Jacob had stayed with him for a whole month, [15] Laban said to him, "Just because you are a relative of mine, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be." [16] Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. [17] Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel was lovely in form, and beautiful. [18] Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, "I'll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel." [19] Laban said, "It's better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me." [20] So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.

WEDDING FEAST ~ Genesis 29:21-24

[21] Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife. My time IS completed, and I want to lie with her." [22] So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast. [23] But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and gave her to Jacob, and Jacob lay with her. [24] And Laban gave his servant girl ZILPAH to his daughter as her maidservant.

ULTIMATE DECEIT ~ Genesis 29:25-30

[25] When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived me?" [26] Laban replied, "It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. [27] Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, IN RETURN FOR ANOTHER SEVEN YEARS OF WORK." [28] And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. [29] Laban gave his servant girl BILHAH to his daughter Rachel as her maidservant. [30] Jacob lay with Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah. And he worked for Laban another seven years.

APPLICATION

Galatians 6:7-9 (NIV) Do not be deceived: **God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.**

God cannot be MOCKED - You Cannot make a FOOL of GOD

Hebrews 12:5-6 (NLT) And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, "**My child, don't make light of the LORD's DISCIPLINE**, and don't give up when he CORRECTS you. [6] **For the LORD DISCIPLINES those he loves**, and HE PUNISHES each one he accepts as his child."

APPLICATION

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NIV) In this you greatly rejoice, though now **for a little while you may have had to suffer GRIEF in ALL kinds of TRIALS**. [7] These have come so that your FAITH - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may be PROVED GENUINE and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

TRIALS COME SO THAT

- our Faith may be REFINED
- our Faith may be Proved GENUINE
- our Faith may RESULT in HONOR to Jesus

James 1:2-4 (NIV) Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, [3] because you know that **the testing of your faith DEVELOPS perseverance**. [4] Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

TESTING OF OUR FAITH

- develops PERSEVERANCE
- perseverance develops MATURITY

TAKE AWAY ??

The Ultimate Goal in ANY hardship or suffering we face is that Jesus Christ would be GLORIFIED by the WAY we Handle it.

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW - CAUSE US TO SUFFER?

- to DISCIPLINE us
- to SHAPE and Mold us
- to help us learn DEPENDENCE
- to make us Living Examples of His GRACE

“God is a Master artist and there are aspects of your life and character - good, quality things - that He wants others to notice. So without using blatant tricks or obvious gimmicks, God brings the cool, dark contrast of suffering into your life. That contrast, laid up against the golden character of Christ Jesus IN you - will draw attention to HIM. Light against darkness. Beauty against affliction. Joy against sorrow. A sweet patient spirit against pain and disappointment - are major contrasts that have a way of attracting attention. You are the canvas on which He paints glorious truths, sharing beauty, and inspiring others. So that people might see HIM.” Joni Erickson