

## TRICKED

Genesis 29:15- 30:24

Jacob had arrived safely in Haran. There he met his cousin Rachel and his uncle Laban. Laban invited Jacob to stay with the family as long as he wished. After Jacob had been at his uncle's for about a month, Laban came to Jacob and said, "Because you are my family, is it right that you should serve me and not be paid? Tell me, what do you want for wages?"

Jacob was an excellent herdsman, and he had been taking care of his uncle's flocks.

Laban had two daughters. The oldest was named Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah was an ordinary looking girl, but Rachel was very beautiful, and Jacob loved Rachel. He said, "I will serve you for seven years, if you will give Rachel to be my wife."

Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you, than to someone else. I agree to what you ask."

So Jacob began his service of seven years in order to marry Rachel. The time seemed little to him because Jacob loved her.

When the seven years were completed, Jacob said to his uncle, "Give me my wife, for I have fulfilled the seven years of working for you."

Laban gathered together all the men of the place and made a wedding feast. When evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, instead of Rachel. It was dark and Leah wore a veil, so Jacob did not know that he had married the wrong daughter. Laban gave Leah Zilpah, his maid, to be Leah's maid servant.

In the morning when Jacob awoke, Leah was in the tent with him, not Rachel, who he had worked for. Jacob went to Laban and demanded, "What have you done to me? Did I not serve you for seven years to gain Rachel for my wife? Why did you trick me?"

Laban answered, "In our country, we dare not allow the younger daughter to marry before the older daughter. Give Leah a week and then I will give you Rachel also, but you must work for me for another seven years."

What could Jacob do? He had been tricked into marrying the wrong sister. Laban got quite a bargain, for he saw that Jacob's service was making him rich. The Lord blessed Jacob and made what he did to prosper, so Laban's herds increased greatly under Jacob's care. Jacob loved Rachel, so he agreed to work another seven years in order to marry her also.

Now God wants a man to have only one wife, but Jacob ignored God's will and married two wives. The result of this was that Leah was hated, and Rachel was loved. There was always jealousy and anger in his home. Because God saw the misery of Leah, he gave her for sons, one right after the other. She named the first son Reuben, saying, "Surely the Lord has noticed my affliction, and now maybe my husband will love me." The second son Leah named Simeon, saying, "Because the Lord saw that I was hated, he has given me this son also." The third son she called Levi, saying, "Now this time my husband will be one with me." The fourth son Leah called Judah, saying, "Now I will praise the Lord."

Rachel became angry because she could not have children. She went to Jacob and said, "Give me children or I will die."

Jacob rightly told her that only God could give children.

The two sisters competed for Jacob's love racing to see who could give him the most children, and even using their maids for this. What a sad family they must have been with all that anger and sadness, envy and competition.

Jacob had been deceived and tricked by Laban, just as he had deceived and tricked his own father. He must often have thought on these things as he pondered his difficult situation.

**PRINCIPLE:** Often the things wrong things we do to others will also be done to us.

**LEARN:** Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Galatians 6:7





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Cut them out. Draw a background tent, cut out + paste behind the  
2 <sup>people</sup> on construction paper in proper perspective.





