



## Sermon Study Guide

January 20, 2019

### Part 3: **The Deceiver, Deceived**

Gen. 27 and 29 - Isaac, Jacob, Rachel, & Leah

**Jacob was always missing something.** In childhood, it was his father's love (Gen. 25:28). Like any kid, Jacob's unfulfilled longing for his father's love led to some bad decisions later in life. In early adulthood, Jacob's life began to devolve into a series of fractured relationships as he sought to fill the void in his heart with financial security, elevated social status, romantic love, and sex, before he finally surrendered to the one thing that he needed all along: a personal relationship with God.

When you have felt a void in your heart, how have you coped?

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**Genesis 27:1-4** When Isaac was old and his eyes were so weak that he could no longer see, he called for Esau his older son and said to him, "My son." "Here I am," he answered.

2 Isaac said, "I am now an old man and don't know the day of my death. 3 Now then, get your equipment—your quiver and bow—and go out to the open country to hunt some wild game for me.

4 Prepare me the kind of tasty food I like and bring it to me to eat, so that I may give you my blessing before I die..."

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**What happened next?**

**What's the difference between the 'birthright' that Esau sold to Jacob and the 'blessing' that Jacob stole from Esau?**

**Why did Rebekah send Jacob away? What reason did she give her husband, Isaac, for Jacob's departure? What does this tell you about Rebekah's character?**

**Can you think of any destructive patterns or tendencies in your family tree that have been passed down from one generation to the next? How have they affected you?**

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**Genesis 29:15-30** 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 had a lovely figure and was 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. 21 Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to make love to her." 22 So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a



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feast. 23 But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob made love to her. 24 And Laban gave his servant Zilpah to his daughter as her attendant.

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 Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as her attendant. 30 Jacob made love to Rachel also, and his love for Rachel was greater than his love for Leah. And he worked for Laban another seven years.

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**What clues do we have that Jacob might have been obsessed with Rachel in an unhealthy way? How and why do many people make the same mistake today?**

**When Jacob realized he'd been duped, he confronted Laban, incensed. What was it about Laban's response that put Jacob in his place?**

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**Genesis 29:31-35** 31 When the Lord saw that Leah was not loved, he enabled her to conceive, but Rachel remained childless. 32 Leah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Reuben, for she said, "It is because the Lord has seen my misery. Surely my husband will love me now." 33 She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "Because the Lord heard that I am not loved, he gave me this one too." So she named him Simeon. 34 Again she conceived, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "Now at last my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." So he was named Levi. 35 She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "This time I will praise the Lord." So she named him Judah. Then she stopped having children.

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**What do we know about Leah's situation, and about her character? How did she hope to fill the void in her life? How and why do many people today make the same mistake?**

**What does it say about God that He saw that Leah was not loved, and He loved her? How does this theme reappear throughout the Bible? See Luke 14:15-24.**

**What are some ways you can begin (or continue) to fill the voids in your life with God's love?**