

As a result, Judah will make Leah part of the lineage of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

*This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:  
2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, **Jacob the father of Judah** and his brothers, 3 Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar...*  
*Matthew 1:1-3*

Leah the outsider. Leah the rejected became Leah the seed. Why would God choose Leah to do that? The answer is right here vs. 31 *"When the Lord saw that Leah was not loved, he opened her womb ..."*

This is the Old Testament showing us  
what the New Testament tells us.  
*God wants the ones no one else wants.*

Though spiritually we might look like Leah, to Jesus we're Rachel.

### Community Group Questions:

1. There are three "bad" things we learn from this story: Sin is generational; Our lives are chronically marked by disappointments and we make it worse when we "idolize" things over God. In this story Leah idolizes the love of her husband as well as the gift of her children hoping they will finally bring her peace. But they don't. *Where have you learned this lesson in your life?*
2. What does it take for you to go from idolizing things to surrendering your disappointments to God and praising Him instead? What idols have you struggled to let go of?
3. In what ways do you appreciate the candor and honesty of the human experience as written in the Bible?

Sierra Community Church May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - Dan Wilvers



## The Girl Nobody Wanted

The Story of Jacob, Laban,  
Leah and Rachel  
**Genesis 29:14-35**

### Laban's Plot

**Laban has two problems.** *"How can I keep my nephew working with me, and what do I do with my older daughter since Jacob wants to marry the younger one?"*

*"Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel was lovely in form, and beautiful."*  
*Genesis 29:16,17*

**Jacob says, "I'll work for Rachel for seven years." What does Laban say?**

*"It's better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me."*

**He didn't say, "Yes."** He led Jacob to believe he was saying yes.

Jacob works for seven years and then Jacob says,  
*"Now I've done my seven years. Send me my wife." Laban says, "Fine."*  
*25 "But when morning came, behold, it was Leah."*

*"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. Genesis 29:25,26*

## Leah's Lot

<sup>27</sup> Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work." Genesis 29:27

<sup>28</sup> And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. <sup>30</sup> Jacob lay with Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah. And he worked for Laban another seven years. Genesis 29:28,30

And Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben; for she said, "Because the LORD has looked upon my affliction; surely now my husband will love me." Genesis 29:32 Reuben's name means, I'm seen.

She conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Because the LORD has heard that I am hated, he has given me this son (Simeon) Genesis 29:33 Simeon-I'm heard.

"Now this time my husband will be joined to me, because I have borne him three sons"; therefore his name was called Levi. Genesis 29:34 Levi -I'm attached.

### The Bad News in the Story:

#### 1. Sin is generational

(God) lays the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations.' Numbers 14:18

#### 2. Life on earth is marked by disappointment.

But behold in the morning it was Leah. Vs. 25

- You'll blame the things you have (the fool)
- You'll blame yourself (the self-hater)
- You'll blame life (the cynic)
- You'll blame your take on reality (the Christian)

#### 3. "Life" gets bad; we make it worse by idolizing things other than God.

"You shall have no other gods before me." Exodus 20:3

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4

## Good News in the Story

### 1. God works with very weak people.

In every case where we read about polygamy and abuse there is destruction. This story along with almost every other story in the OT is showing you that the Bible is the opposite of a Book of Virtues.

*The Bible is not about role models.* The Bible gives you men and women, who God continues to work with, despite their behavior, who don't deserve His grace but get it anyway. This is great news BTW.

In the Bible we have a God that we don't have to perform for in order to gain acceptance. We have God who requires our surrender to Him.

### 2. God is attracted to weak people.

God doesn't just work *with*, but He works *in* the weakest and the most broken of all. This is what is so astounding.

Throughout ordeal Leah calls God by his personal name Yahweh.

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." Genesis 29:32

Because the **LORD** heard that I am not loved, he gave me this one too."

Genesis 29:33

**Her motive?** "Now my husband will love me. Now my husband will be with me. Yet nothing changes

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.

Genesis 29:35

Judah's name means-"Be praised"