

Waging Worldly Warfare

Genesis 30:1-43

Introduction

I The Stage Is Set For Worldly Warfare

- A. Rachel was not **bearing** children - 2 Cor 10:3-4; James 4:1-3
- B. Rachel became jealous of her sister - James 3:16; Phil 4:12
- C. Rachel became **angry** with Jacob - James 1:19-20
 - 1. Jacob in turn became angry with Rachel - Prov 15:1

II The Battle Of The Brides

- A. Rachel **gave** Bilhah to Jacob - Gen 16:1-3
 - 1. Bilhah bore him a son: Dan
 - 2. Bilhah bore him another son: Naphtali - Eph 6:12
- B. Leah **gave** Zilpah to Jacob
 - 1. Zilpah bore a son: Gad
 - 2. Zilpah bore another son: Asher - Jn 12:42-43; 5:44
- C. Leah **bargained** for a night with Jacob
 - 1. She twisted the truth - Jer 17:9
 - a. “Wasn’t it enough that you took my husband?”
 - 2. She **bought** a night with Jacob for mandrakes
 - 3. God **listened** to Leah
 - a. She bore another son: Issachar
 - b. She bore another son: Zebulun
 - c. She bore a daughter: Dinah - Gen 37:35; 46:7,15
- D. God **remembered** Rachel
 - 1. He listened to her and opened her womb
 - a. She bore her first son: Joseph

III The Battle Of The In-laws

- A. Jacob finished his **14** years of service
 - 1. He asked Laban for permission to leave
- B. Laban **recognized** the blessings of Jacob - Gen 12:3
 - 1. He asked Jacob to name his wages - Lk 12:15
- C. Jacob proposed a surprising **deal**
 - 1. He asked for the speckled, spotted and dark sheep
- D. Laban agreed but then **stacked** the deck against Jacob

- 1. He removed them from the flock
- 2. He placed them in the care of his sons
- 3. He separated the flocks by a three-day journey
- E. Jacob countered with a **plan** from God - 1 Cor 1:20-21
 - 1. The weak animals went to Laban and the strong to Jacob
 - 2. He became exceedingly **prosperous** - Prv 13:22; Ps 37:5-9

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

- 1. Share a time when you “Waged Worldly Warfare” by taking things into your own hands. What happened?
- 2. As you consider the respective roles of Jacob, Rachel, Leah and Laban, who do you think bears the most responsibility for the dysfunction of this family? Why? What can you learn from your observations? Who are you most like?
- 3. What impact do you think Jacob, Rachel and Leah had on their home life and on the character development of their children? On a scale of 1-10 (10 being the best) how pleased are you with the influence you are having on your children? What do you think God would have you change? Are you willing?
- 4. Have you ever been cheated by someone? How did you respond? Do you think Jacob handled his situation with Laban in a biblical manner? If not, how do you think he should have responded? Can you support your views with scripture?
- 5. Read Eph 6:12 and 2 Cor 10:3-4. Is there an area in your life that you are tempted to fight back with the weapons of the world? If so, take a few moments to 1) Ask God for forgiveness for failing to trust in Him, 2) Surrender control of the situation back to God, 3) Ask for His help and divine intervention and 4) Praise Him in advance for His deliverance.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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