**Family Secrets – Gen. 29:25**

*He said to Laban, what is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served with you? Why then have you deceived me?*

Jacob’s painfilled words to Laban are repeated in families in every generation.

Family lies& deceit destroy family life. Family lies lead to family pain& life – long offenses

**Focal Truth: Jacob trusted God’s promised presence despite family lies**

**Observation**

1. **God promises Jacob His presence & protection wherever He sojourns – 28:15**

*Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you*

1. Jacob by faith sojourned in the land of promise but was an alien in the land of promise – Heb. 11:9 – *by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise*
2. God promised His presence to Jacob – 28:15

*Behold I am with you and keep you wherever you go…*

1. Jacob made a commitment to trust the promise of God – 28:20 -21

*Jacob made a vow, if God will be with me and will keep me on this journey that*

*I take…then I will return to my father’s house in safety, then the Lord will be my God*

**Consider**

1. Jacob sojourned joyfully because He knew God was with him no matter what he might experience on the way
2. Jacob sojourned as an alien & stranger without a homeland believing that God would be his provider
3. Believers in Jesus Christ are sojourning by faith as strangers in the world seeking our heavenly home

1 Pet. 2:11 – *I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul*

1. Believers in Jesus Christ are strangers in this world – this world is not our home

Believers journey by faith **through the pains of life** to heaven

Believers journey by faith **through the temptations of life** to heaven

Believers journey by faith **through the troubles of family life** to a heavenly home

Believers journey by **waiting for the coming of the Lord Jesus**!

1. **Jacob the sojourner searches for a wife among his relatives – 29:1**

*Then Jacob went on his journey = foot and came to the land of the sons of the east*

1. God arranges for Jacob to meet his wife Rachel at the well – 29:10

*When Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother’s brother and the sheep of Laban…*

1. Jacob rejoices in God’s blessing of meeting Rachel – 29:11

*Jacob kissed Rachel and lifted his voice and wept*

**Consider**

1. Jacob came to the land of his relatives without anything – he was a stranger but he knew God was with him
2. Jacob trusted God & God brought his future wife to meet him
3. Jacob rejoiced in the provision of God – He brought his wife to the meet him!

**He who finds a good wife, finds a good thing!**

1. **Jacob was deceived by his uncle concerning his desire to marry Rachel – 29:25**

*He said to Laban, what is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served with you? Why then have you deceived me?*

1. Jacob met Laban the father of Rachel - 29:13
2. Laban asked Jacob to stay & work for him – 29:15
3. Jacob loved Rachel & asked Laban to allow him to work to earn the right to marry Rachel – 29:18
4. Laban promised to give Rachel to Jacob – 29:19 – *It is better that I give her to you than to give her to another man; stay with me*
5. Jacob served Laban seven years to marry Rachel – 29:20
6. Laban deceived Jacob and gave him Leah the older daughter rather than Rachel 29:23

**Laban is an example of a sinful deceiver!**

**Consider**

1. Deceitfulness is **universal** – all families experience lies & deceit!
2. Deceitfulness is **personal** - we deceive ourselves, we are deceived by the devil, we deceive one another, we live in a world of deceit & lies!
3. Deceitfulness is **sinful** – deceivers are liars, users, abusers, controllers

Pr. 12:20 – *deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil*

Pro. 26:24 – *he who hates disguises it with his lips and lays up deceit within himself*

1. Deceitfulness is **painful** – Jacob painfully complains to Laban about his deceit

Pr. 26:28 – *a lying tongue hates those it crushes*

1. **Laban had the advantage over Jacob the stranger so he deceived him for his own purposes!**
2. **God will judge all liars & deceivers including the father of lies the devil – Rev. 21:8**

*But the cowardly & unbelieving & abominable, all murderers & immoral people & sorcerers & idolaters & all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire & brimstone, which is the second death*

**Things to Remember & Do**

1. Believers - live in the joy of the promised permanent presence of Jesus Matt. 28:20 - *I am with you always*
2. Believe God’s truthful promises not devil lies, worldly lies or family lies
3. Trust God when you have been deceived by someone in your family!
4. Bless & pray for those who deceive & take advantage of you! Lk.6:28

*Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you*

1. Always tell the truth put away lying and deceit – 1 Pet. 3:10

*Therefore, putting away all malice & all deceit & hypocrisy& envy & all slander*

**Jesus said to his disciples – I am with you always!**

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**