**Family Secrets – Gen. 31:19**

*When Laban had gone to shear his flock then Rachel stole the household idols that were her fathers*

Do you believe that your family has any family idols?

What is idolatry? Why does God command avoidance of Idolatry?

Idolatry is the worship of anything in place of God!

What are the idols of your family?

Rachel’s idolatry reveals 3 essential characteristics of idol worship

**Focal Truth: Family idols produce idol worship!**

1. **Rachel had a spiritual - emotional attachment to the family idols – 31:19**

*When Laban had gone to shear his flock then Rachel stole the household idols that were her fathers*

1. Rachel grew up in an idolatrous family – in an idolatrous world

The land of Abraham’s family worshipped the moon god. Abraham rejected idolatry & believed in the living God – This was Jacob’s family heritage

1. Rachel stole the family idol – “teraphim”- a idol to which people would come and ask for guidance – early form of demonism – divination = seeking knowledge of the future by an unknown supernatural means

The tribe of Dan used the “teraphim” in Judges for guidance not God

The king of Babylon frequently used “teraphim” for guidance

Israel in their idolatry used “teraphim” for guidance – Zec. 10:2 – *for the teraphim have spoken vanity, and the diviners have seen a lie and have told false dreams; they comfort in vain.*

1. Jacob told Rachel that God said it was time to leave her home - **Rachel took the family idol**
2. Jacob told Rachel that God had promised to bless & care for them – **Rachel took the family idol**
3. Rachel had seen God’s blessing on Jacob for 20 years – **Rachel took the family idol**

**Consider**

1. Idol worship holds the hearts loyalty & love
2. Idolatry is devotion to substitutes for God’s love, provision & care
3. **Rachel had a spiritual - emotional dependence on the family idols – 31:32**

*For Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them*

1. Rachel knew that God had promised to blessed Jacob but she did not live by the promise of God, she held to her family idols – the family secret!

**Consider**

1. Family idols are many!

The idol of self – love

The idol of possessions

The idol of country

The idol of family & people worship

The idol of pleasure

The idol of technology

The idol of recreation

The idol of work

The idol of religion – having a form of godliness but no power!

The idol of demonism – astrology, fortune telling, Occult teachings, worship of dead

1. Idolatry is the absence of any dependence on God or His promises
2. **Rachel had a spiritual - emotional assurance in the family idols – 31:34 -35**

*Now Rachel had taken the household idols and put them in the camel’s saddle, and she sat on them. And Laban felt through all the tent but did not find them. She said to her father, let not my lord be angry that I cannot rise before you, for the manner of women is upon me. So he searched but did not find the household idols*

1. Rachel was assured by the family idols she lied to her father about taking them
2. Rachel was assured by the family idols she took them and kept them secretly for personal assurance

**Consider**

1. Idolatry creates spiritual deadness toward God – Ps. 115:8 – *those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them*

Ps. 81:11 – 12 – *My people did not listen to My voice, & Israel did not obey Me. So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their heart, to walk in their own device*

1. **The danger of the sin of idolatry**

Ps. 106 – Israel the example of generational idolatry

106:19 - Idolatry is worshipping any created thing in place of the living God

106:19 - Idolatry exchanges the glory of God for the man - made gods

106:21 - Idolatry forgets God the provider & savior

106:24 - Idolatry despised & rejects God’s word

106:25 - Idolatry refuses to listen to God’s word

106:35 - Idolatry conforms to the worship of worldly gods

106:39 - Idolatry produces sinful uncleanness

**Consider**

1. Idolatry produces all types of sinfulness
2. Idolatry is spiritual unfaithfulness to God

**Things to Remember and Do**

1. Idolatry is worshipping anything other than God
2. What each one honors before all else, & admires and loves above all else, this is for him God - Origen
3. You shall have no other gods before Me! - Ex. 30:3
4. Flee from family idols

1 Cor. 10:14

1. Guard yourself from idols

1 John 5:21