

## **“A Blessing by Association”**

**Genesis 30:25-27**

**10/04/11**

**Introduction:** There is a reason business owners join organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce. They do so because they know there is a blessing in store for their business. In other words, they expect to further their goals and increase the visibility (market) of their individual business. Likewise, we understand that when we join the family of God, there is a blessing associated for us and for others because of our relationship with Christ (**Ephesians 1:3**). In our lesson tonight, we are going to look at Jacob's life and read about the blessing others experienced because of him.

### **Verse 25**

#### **The Desire To Return**

In this verse, we see Jacob's desire to return to his home and country. Jacob had left his parents' (Isaac and Rebekah) home because he feared being **killed** by his brother Esau. Jacob was in fear because he had tricked his father, Isaac, into pronouncing Esau's blessing upon him, which caused conflict and resentment between the two brothers. After leaving his home, Jacob arrived at Laban's home. Because of his desire to marry Rachel, he agreed to serve Laban for 14 years. But, here we see that these years did not cause Jacob to **forget** what God had given to him and his forefathers (**Genesis 15:18**). As Jacob maintained his zest for his country, we need to maintain the same fervor for our first love, the Lord Jesus Christ (**Revelation 2:3-4**) (**Mark 12:30**). At times, the hardships and daily **routines** of our lives may cause us to lose that zeal or eagerness, but we should constantly strive to grow deeper in the knowledge and love of God (**Philippians 1:8-10**). Jacob's desire to return home came at a pivotal point in his life. It was right after Rachel gave birth to Joseph, their first child, for whom they had waited a long time. This long awaited blessing was followed by his desire to return to God's Promised Land. In other words, it was a desire to return to God's **Will** for his life. Likewise, if we have moved away to a place which is not of God's choosing and He still blesses us, we need to go back to the place of God's Will for our lives.

### **Verse 26**

#### **The Dedication to the Responsibility**

This verse shows Jacob's dedication to the responsibility he had taken on. What was his responsibility? In chapter 29, we understand that Jacob had **agreed** to work for Laban for 14 years and in chapter 30 Jacob indicates that he “served” for his family. This conveys his affection for them. In the same way, if we love someone, we should be willing to serve for them, which is not a new concept for

the Christian. Christ exemplified this **attitude** on earth. So what does that mean? We need to serve in any capacity where God has called us whether it's at home, church, etc. No position is too big or too small as long as we are called by God for it and we do it with love. Jacob was willing to serve in unfavorable circumstances because he **loved** his family and we should also be willing to serve because we love Jesus Christ. Another point to consider is the attitude with which Jacob served. He says "for thou knowest my service which I have done," which shows that he didn't feel guilty about his behavior. He knows he had a positive attitude despite being cheated by Laban. It's not enough that we are serving, but more importantly is the attitude in which we serve. Our attitude may be hidden from people, but not from God (**Proverbs 15:11**). Like Jacob, we should be faithful in whatever situation we find ourselves in today because God will reward us in due time (His time). Another example of Jacob's positive attitude was when he asked permission to leave ("let me go"). If Jacob had really wanted to leave, he could have left secretly, but in humility, he asks permission of Laban who was the one who deceived him. As apostle Peter states, if we call ourselves Christians, then we will do good despite the **wrong** done to us (**1 Peter 2:18-23**) (**Romans 12:17**).

## Verse 27

## The Declaration of the **Riches**

In verse 27, we read about the declaration of the riches Laban possessed. Laban requests that Jacob stay with him for a longer period of time. Why? It is because he understood that God had **blessed** him because of Jacob (**James 1:17**). This is the first time we really hear Laban praising Jacob. As Christians, we need to remind ourselves that our blessings come to us only because we have **accepted** Jesus Christ as our Savior. Just as Laban was blessed because of his association with Jacob, we are blessed because of our association with Christ and we should openly glorify God. Notice Laban not only understood his source of blessing, but he verbally acknowledged it. We need to give credit to God for all of our **material**, professional, and spiritual blessings. Laban's testimony also teaches us that when we experience blessings from others, we need to let them know. Remember that just as Laban experienced blessings through Jacob, we can also be a source of blessings to others. In order for Jacob to be a blessing to Laban he had to be in an unpleasant situation. Likewise, in order for others to experience and see their blessings we might have to be inconvenienced, which was also true of Jesus Christ. We are able to experience the richness of Christ because He was willing to suffer and be discomforted (**Philippians 2:4-8**). Jesus Christ's willingness to suffer for us allowed the blessing of salvation to come our way. It is clear that every believer is blessed because of our **association** with HIM!



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