

## E2E: Part 23 – Jacob, Leah and Rachel

### Genesis Chapter 28 & 29

Mark Kring, Senior Pastor  
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1. God works in difficult circumstances, bad relationships, hard work environments, and deceit for His ultimate purpose. If we're willing, He will shape us for our good.
2. Jacob was known as a liar, a manipulator, and a deceiver after swindling his father and brother. In that condition, God reached out to him with a promise to comfort and keep him and return him home. (Gen 28:12-15)
3. Likewise, Jesus doesn't wait until we're perfect to reach out to us. He extends the invitation and opens the way to God, He keeps us, and He will bring us home one day to our Father's house. (1Cor 1:26-30 & 1Cor 6:9-11)
4. Jacob's success began to collapse through God's discipline and shaping.
5. God's lessons for Jacob included: humble submission, respecting others, patience, and understanding what it's like to be deceived and manipulated.
6. The similarities between Jacob's treatment of his father and Laban's manipulation of Jacob are deliberate. (Gen 29:21-29)
7. Although Jacob chose Rachel, God chose Leah. She eventually becomes the mother of Judah - through whose line Jesus was born. (Gen 29:31-35)
8. Jacob's 12 sons became the 12 tribes of Israel and set the pattern for the remainder of Genesis.
9. Jacob matured and wants to take care of his family. He works until the land no longer holds his share of the livestock. (Gen 30)
10. Receiving blessings does not mean everything is perfect, or that God is done working on you. For Jacob to become everything God destined him to be he must deal with his past.

# HEBREW WORDS

'im (eem); a primitive particle; a demonstrative - since, whereas

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Mark pointed out that Jacob's response to God's gracious commitment to him was to respond by declaring that he was committing his life to God. (Genesis 28:20-22)

1. Assuming that you have experienced the grace of God's unconditional commitment toward yourself, have you made a similar response to God and committed your life to Him?
2. In your understanding what does it actually look like to live a life committed to God? How did you come to that understanding?

As part of His commitment to Jacob, God began to reshape, harness, and direct him and his life to be more aligned with His person and purposes.

1. What part (if any) do you think we play in this transformation process?
2. Where do you think God may be currently wanting to reshape you, or the direction of your life?
3. How can others around you practically help you to cooperate with Him on this?