



THE BOOK OF
GENESIS

THE UN-DATING GAME

GENESIS 29:1-30

Life is filled with choices, many of which are not easy.

- What the world is able to do to us depends a great deal on what the world finds in us.
- What is inside us often dictates what happens with the choices we make . . . motivation matters.
- Jacob left some of his family problems behind in Canaan, but he had to take along his biggest problem—himself.

***When making tough decisions,
what motivates your heart?***

FINDING YOUR MATE HEBREW STYLE

Let's be clear, according to your Bible, marriage is not for everybody. Jesus and Paul, too, for that matter (**1 Cor. 7**), made this clear (**Matt. 19:1-12**). Singleness is also of the Lord . . . for some people.

- But with Jacob, marriage wasn't an option; it was an obligation. He was not called to be a eunuch.
- He was called to be a major part of the lineage of Jesus, so picking his bride was a huge deal!

1. LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT v. 1-13

How does God show us our spouse? College? Christian Mingle? e-Harmony? Your friends the matchmakers?

- Unbelievers might call the events getting you to your spouse “a fortunate coincidence, accidental good fortune, chance, luck, or karma.”
- But believers would see in it the gracious leading of the hand of God as we submit to His leading. **Rom. 8:28**
- God is fully in control of everything at all times, but we need to be listening and obedient.

2. THE AGREEMENT v. 14-20

During his first month in Laban's house, Jacob did his share of the work and was happy for every opportunity to be with Rachel. But, you will reap what you sow!

- The schemer was about to get schemed by Laban, who would control his life for the next twenty years.
- In the excitement of the decision, accepting a job and being engaged to a beautiful woman, Jacob failed to notice that Laban made no promise that he would give Rachel to Jacob at the end of the seven years.

3. THE FRUITS OF DECEPTION v. 21-30

It is an inescapable spiritual law of life that we will more often than not eventually reap what we sow. **Gal. 6:7-8**

- God in His **GRACE** forgives our sins when we confess them (**1 John 1:9**), but God in His **GOVERNMENT** sometimes allows us to suffer the consequences of sin.

Why and how was Jacob so easily deceived?

- Look at what we know about the family: lying, drunkenness, scheming, cheating, unscrupulous behavior, polygamy, disorderly family life—it was normal.

4. SOME LEFTOVERS

- Where was Rachel and what was she thinking while all this was going on?
- Desire that is unchecked by concern for God's will in that situation is often disastrous.
- We often run to the law of man to justify our sin.
- Jacob was more or less forced into becoming a bigamist or polygamist.

THE BIBLE AND POLYGAMY

Three questions to answer:

- 1)** Why did God allow polygamy in the Old Testament?
 - God only allowed it, never did He ordain or command it.
- 2)** How does God view polygamy today?
 - Modern no-fault divorce is actually a type of polygamy.
- 3)** Did God change His standard?
 - Many problems develop later in Jacob's home because of polygamy, showing again that monogamy was then and is now God's actual perfect plan.