

Jacob & the Gospel # 7

Genesis 29³¹ - 30²⁴

The deep desires of our heart

Lord's day morning: 5 Aug 2007

Preacher: Geoff Findlay

Children's talk: Smarties or the kingdom?

Introduction

Desperate housewives

1. The heart of a Leah (29³¹⁻³⁵)

Desperate for love

Discerning the deep desires of the heart

2. The heart of a Rachel (30¹⁻²¹)

Desperate for children

Dependence on artificial aids

3. The heart of a Jacob (30^{2,16})

Not theology nor gynaecology, but sensitivity

Not desperate for anything

4. The heart of God (29³¹, 30²²)

Grace, grace and yet more grace

What He opens no one can shut, and what He shuts no one can open

Conclusion

Who will receive the promise?

Leah	Bilhah (Rachel's maid)	Zilpah (Leah's maid)	Rachel
1 Reuben (see, a son)			
2 Simeon (heard)			
3 Levi (attached)			
4 Judah (praise)			
	5 Dan (vindicated)	7 Gad (fortunate)	
9 Issachar (reward)	6 Naphtali (my struggle)	8 Asher (happy)	
10 Zebulun (honour)			
(Dinah)			11 Joseph (may He add)



Questions answered

- How do we know that Leah is desperate for her husband's love?
- What would God have a wife to do in such a situation?
- How does desperation reveal the idols of our hearts?
- What was significant about the name that Leah gave to her 4th child?
- How do we know that Rachel is desperate for children?
- Why does she adopt the same strategy that Sarah used that brought such havoc into the household?
What does this indicate about human nature?
- How does Rachel interpret God's providence in the birth of a child to her maid?
What does this teach us about conclusions we draw from God's providence?
- What is the next strategy that Rachel hopes will yield her children?
Why does this fail?
- What was unhelpful about Jacob's response to Rachel's outburst about wanting children?
What would have been a wise response?
- What else appears to be sorely lacking in Jacob's role in the family?
- What do God's dealings with each of Jacob, Rachel & Leah reveal to us about His own heart?
- To what extent is God sovereign in opening and closing the womb?
What implications might this have for us?
- Which of Jacob's sons are heirs of the promise?
What is significant about this?



Things to pray about

- Wisdom & grace to discern the idols of our own hearts.
- Grace to trust God to work His purposes out in our lives, in His time.
- Demonstrating the compassion of God to those who have got themselves in a mess through fault of their own.