

## GENESIS 29:18-26 “COME UPPIN’S”

<sup>18</sup> Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, “I’ll work for you for seven in years in return for your younger daughter Rachel.”

<sup>19</sup> Laban said, “It’s better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me.” <sup>20</sup> So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.

<sup>21</sup> Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to lie with her.”

<sup>22</sup> So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast. <sup>23</sup> But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and gave her to Jacob, and Jacob lay with her. <sup>24</sup> And Laban gave his servant girl Zilpah to his daughter as her maidservant.

<sup>25</sup> When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn’t I? Why have you deceived me?”

<sup>26</sup> Laban replied, “It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one.

Jacob came by his propensity to deceive naturally. A prominent contributor to his gene pool was Uncle Laban, his mother’s brother. Through his love for Rachel and his dependence on Laban, Jacob will begin his rehabilitation by being on the receiving side of deception. But where Esau was impatient, Jacob was willing to express a sacrificial love by agreeing to wait for his beloved. As Jacob had played on Esau’s appetite and Isaac’s blindness, Laban parleyed Jacob’s love for Rachel into fourteen years of free labor from Jacob.

To do things our own way and by our own power, in accordance with the ways of the world, will lead to the consequences of delay and disappointment. Even the culture sums up this truth with the saying, “Live by the sword – die by the sword.” Much of the repentance we need to perform before we can enjoy the kingdom of God is the turning away from our own strategies and putting all our hope in a loving dependence on God. We need to keep the message of Proverbs 3:5-8 in our minds at all times.

<sup>5</sup> *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;*

<sup>6</sup> *in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*

<sup>7</sup> *Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.* <sup>8</sup> *This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.*

**Deliver me, Lord, from the lure of the ways of the world. Protect me from my propensity to employ power, coercion, deception and other tools for self-advancement and self-preservation. Increase my trust in you so that I might rely totally upon you and more perfectly fulfill your will for me. Amen.**