



Lesson 4

Romans 12:19b

Don't try to get even. Leave room for God to show His anger. It is written, "I am the God who judges people. I will pay them back," (Deuteronomy 32:25) says the Lord.

Jacob Runs Away From Laban

Genesis 31:1–21

¹Jacob heard what Laban's sons were saying. "Jacob has taken everything our father owned," they said. "He has gained all this wealth from what belonged to our father." ²Jacob noticed that Laban's feelings toward him had changed.

³Then the Lord spoke to Jacob. He said, "Go back to your father's land and to your relatives. I will be with you."

⁴So Jacob sent word to Rachel and Leah. He told them to come out to the fields where his flocks were. ⁵He said to them, "I see that your father's feelings toward me have changed. But the God of my father has been with me. ⁶You know that I've worked for your father with all my strength. ⁷But your father has cheated me. He has changed my pay ten times. In spite of everything that's happened, God hasn't let him harm me. ⁸Sometimes Laban would say, 'The speckled ones will be your pay.' Then all the flocks had little ones with speckles. At other times he would say, 'The striped ones will be your pay.' Then all the flocks had little ones with stripes. ⁹So God has taken away your father's livestock and given them to me.

¹⁰"Once during the mating season I had a dream. In my dream I looked and saw male goats mating with the flock. The goats had stripes, speckles or spots. ¹¹The angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob.' I answered, 'Here I am.' ¹²He said, 'Look around you. See the male goats mating with the flock. All of them have stripes, speckles or spots. That's because I have seen everything that Laban has been doing to you. ¹³I am the God of Bethel. That is where you poured olive oil on a sacred stone. There you made a promise to Me. Now leave this land. Go back to your own land.'"

¹⁴Rachel and Leah replied, "Do we still have any share of our father's property? ¹⁵Doesn't our father think of us as outsiders? First he sold us. Now he has used up what he was paid for us. ¹⁶All the wealth God took away from our father really belongs to us and our children. So do what God has told you to do."

¹⁷Then Jacob put his children and wives on camels. ¹⁸He drove all his livestock ahead of him. He also took with him everything he had acquired in Paddan Aram. He left to go to his father Isaac in the land of Canaan.

¹⁹Laban had gone to clip the wool from his sheep. While he was gone, Rachel stole the statues of the family gods that belonged to her father. ²⁰And that's not all. Jacob tricked Laban, the Aramean. He didn't tell him he was running away. ²¹So Jacob ran off with everything he had. He crossed the Euphrates River. And he headed for the hill country of Gilead.



Questions

- 1 Why was Laban complaining about Jacob? Laban was **j**_____ (an angry feeling of wanting to have what someone else has) of Jacob. (Gen. 31:1)
- 2 Did Jacob notice Laban had become jealous? (Yes/No) _____. (Gen. 31:2)
- 3 What did the Lord tell Jacob to do about this? The Lord told Jacob to ____ back to his _____ land and to his relatives. (Gen. 31:3)
- 4 What else did the Lord tell Jacob? The Lord told Jacob that the Lord would be _____ him. (Gen. 31:3)
- 5 Do you think jealousy can also be a source of conflict today, even in church ministry? (Yes/No) _____.



This is something we each need to regularly watch for in ourselves.

- 6 Was Jacob a hard worker for his father-in-law, Laban? (Yes/No) _____. (Gen. 31:6)
- 7 Was Laban fair toward Jacob? (Yes/No) _____. (Gen. 31:7)
- 8 How did Laban treat Jacob? Laban _____ Jacob and _____ Jacob's pay _____ times. (Gen. 31:7)
- 9 Who was protecting Jacob from Laban's unfair treatment toward him? _____ didn't let Laban _____ Jacob. (Gen. 31:7)
- 10 Did Jacob ever treat Laban badly because of Laban's unfairness? (Yes/No) _____.
- 11 What did God do for Jacob? God _____ away Laban's livestock and _____ them to Jacob. (Gen. 31:9)

1 Peter 3:9

Don't pay back evil with evil. Don't pay back unkind words with unkind words. Instead, pay back evil with kind words. This is what you have been chosen to do. You will receive a blessing by doing this.



Jacob continued to show respect for his father-in-law and did not get angry or retaliate (means “pay back evil with evil”), so God blessed Jacob.

- 12 What did Jacob once have during his flock's mating season? Jacob had a _____. (Gen. 31:10)
- 13 What was the dream Jacob had? The dream was of male goats _____ with the flock. The goats had _____, _____, or _____. (Gen. 31:10)
- 14 What did the dream mean? The dream meant that God had seen _____. Laban had been doing to Jacob. (Gen. 31:12)
- 15 Does God see everything people are doing to you, too? (Yes/No) _____.

Luke 6:27

“But here is what I [Jesus] tell you who are listening. Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you.”

- 16 What is God's will for you when people are treating you badly? God's will is for me to continue to love Him and _____ (opposite of “hate”) others, even those who are my _____.



If your heart stays pure, God will take care of you the same way He took care of Jacob when Laban mistreated him.

- 17 Did Rachel and Leah agree to leave the land they were living in and go back to Jacob's own land? (Yes/No) _____. Why? Rachel and Leah agreed to go because they no longer had any _____ of their father's property. Their father thought of them as _____. He _____ them and _____ up what was paid for them. (Gen. 31:14–16)
- 18 What did Jacob's children and wives ride on? They rode on _____. (Gen. 31:17)
- 19 When Jacob left Laban, what was driven ahead of him? All of Jacob's _____ were driven ahead of him. (Gen. 31:18)
- 20 Whom was Jacob eager to see in the land of Canaan? Jacob was eager to see his father, _____. (Gen. 31:19)



Unfortunately, it appears Rebekah had passed away and was never able to see her son Jacob again.

- 21 When Laban had gone to clip the wool from his sheep, Rachel did a terrible thing that showed disobedience to God. What did Rachel do? Rachel _____ the _____ of the family _____ that belonged to her _____. (Gen. 31:19)

Exodus 23:13

“Be careful to do everything I [the Lord] have said to you. Do not speak the names of other gods. Do not even let them be heard on your lips.”



I guess Jacob should have looked more at the heart, not outward beauty, in choosing a wife.

- 22 Did Jacob tell Laban he was running away? (Yes/No) _____. (Gen. 31:20)

How did the Holy Spirit speak to you this week as you studied these Bible verses? In other words, what did you learn this week from reading God’s Word?
