

Jacob: Bargains, Deceit and Sons

Genesis 29

Read Genesis 29:1-14.

Jacob met Laban's daughter Rachel at the well near Harran.

- What was Jacob's reaction when Rachel came to the well?
- How is God wisely at work to accomplish His will in you?

Principle: God is always working to accomplish His will.

Read Genesis 29:15-30.

Jacob agreed to work seven years to marry Rachel, but through Laban's deception, he unknowingly married Leah first.

- What possible motivations did Laban have for deceiving Jacob?
- How have decisions to do the right thing in a hard time changed your character?

Principle: God is never mistaken – His ways are always wise.

Read Genesis 29:31-35.

The Lord enabled Leah to bear four sons.

- How did God care for Leah in her difficult circumstances?
- What is good to remember about God and the truth of His Word when trials come?

Principle: God gives His children reasons to rejoice in their trials.

Review Genesis 29.

- How has God blessed you in your difficult circumstances?

Main truth: God is at work in every trial to grow His children's faith.

Scripture Memory Verse

“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?’ ” – Genesis 29:25

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Exploring the Christian Faith

An Attribute of God

from this week's passage

Wise

God is not simply all-knowing. He always uses His knowledge to do exactly what is right. God's Word is full of His wisdom. Both His plan of redemption and His design of creation are perfectly wise. Science is still discovering the riches of God's wisdom. The order of an atom displays God's wisdom. Mathematics and music are possible because they were first in God's mind. God is wise in how He put people in families and families in communities and communities in nations. God is wise in the plan He has for each of His children individually. All wisdom comes from God. To be wise we must seek Him.

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A Basic Truth of the Christian Faith

What defines or describes the providence of God?

God's providence means He wisely directs and permits all that happens in His creation.¹ God involves Himself in all events and directs all things to accomplish His good purposes.² Health and sickness, riches and poverty come to us not by chance,³ but from the Father's loving hands.⁴

1 Chronicles 29:11-12¹; Psalm 115:3²; Acts 17:24-26³; Matthew 10:29-31⁴

Think About It

Why does God allow bad things to happen?

All bad things (death, illness, injury, suffering, etc.) can be traced back to the Fall, when sin disrupted God's perfect world. God limits suffering and restrains much evil. When God permits evil, He will use it for good, even though we may not see the good during our lifetime. Nothing happens by chance. For example, Joseph suffered terribly and could not imagine all God was doing. He eventually realized the wonderful things God accomplished through his suffering. God planned good through Joseph's suffering that continues even today and will bring Him glory forever.

Are people just puppets if God controls everything?

People are not puppets. We make actual choices and are responsible for our actions. God does not override our will but He does direct circumstances to accomplish His will. God always acts for good. When people act in an evil way, they are guilty of doing wrong, even though God works through their actions to bring about good. God never deserves blame for people's evil actions. He always deserves our praise.

Why doesn't God show me His purposes when my life is hard to understand?

We can trust God's good purposes even when we do not understand what He is doing. Living by faith gives God's children joy and brings Him glory. We must trust Him to show us all we need to know. Only God knows His infinite purposes for everything that happens. God leads His children by His Word and His Spirit and other good gifts – our parents, natural abilities and good desires. We do not need to look for signs to know what to do. Knowing our heavenly Father is in control is more than enough for us.

To learn more Basic Truths of the Christian Faith, visit mybsf.org.