

PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH

LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE

Sermon Date: 02/04/2023

Text(s): Genesis 29:15-35

Sermon Title: Blinded

Preachers: Ps Isaac Tan

(The sermon recording is available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

READ (5 mins)

Genesis 29:15–35 (ESV)

15 Then Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?”

16 Now Laban had two daughters. The name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.

17 Leah’s eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance.

18 Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.”

19 Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.”

20 So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

21 Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.”

22 So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast.

23 But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her.

24 (Laban gave his female servant Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her servant.)

25 And in the morning, behold, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?”

26 Laban said, “It is not so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn.

27 Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.”

28 Jacob did so, and completed her week. Then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife.

29 (Laban gave his female servant Bilhah to his daughter Rachel to be her servant.)

30 So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah, and served Laban for another seven years.

31 When the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.

32 And Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben, for she said, “Because the LORD has looked upon my affliction; for now my husband will love me.”

33 She conceived again and bore a son, and said, “Because the LORD has heard that I am hated, he has given me this son also.” And she called his name Simeon.

34 Again she conceived and bore a son, and said, “Now this time my husband will be attached to me, because I have borne him three sons.” Therefore his name was called Levi.

35 And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, “This time I will praise the LORD.” Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she ceased bearing.

RELATE (30 mins)

(Relate to what was shared and on key themes in the sermon)

- 1. Jacob cheated his near-blind father and his brother for Esau's birth right. It resulted in Jacob fleeing his murderous brother (Gen 27:41-43). Do you think God's divine plan to have the Messiah come from the line of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Judah would not have happened if Jacob had not stolen Esau's birth right? What was one important point made early in the sermon about chasing after something we value?**
- 2. Jacob's goal of getting Rachel to be his wife was so firm that he was willing to work for Laban for 14 years, practically for free. He was totally driven by this strong desire. Was it wrong for Jacob to have a strong desire for Rachel? What do we do if we find ourselves having a very strong desire concerning a certain goal?**

REFLECT (30 mins)

(Reflect and apply God's word to our daily lives)

- 1. When Jacob confronted Laban after realizing he had married Leah, what was Laban's answer to Jacob? Was it wrong for Laban to insist that the elder daughter be married first? What was the real issue here and the important learning point for us?**
- 2. Leah, too, was blinded by her discontentment and she placed all her hopes on her husband and her sons. But God reached out to her. How did God reach out to Leah? How did God reach out to Jacob? How has God reached out to us? What can we do now to get rid of our blindness?**

REST (15 mins)

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See MyPMC > PRAY for monthly guide)

- Pray for one another to always be willing to approach God with our blindness, to turn our desires to Him, and let him uncover the roots of our desires, and remove that blindness.
- Pray for our life groups and our church to be a people who would always keep our eyes and focus on the Lord Jesus and allow Him to remove any deceit in our hearts.
- Pray for the MCS to continue to be strong and stable, able to meet needs in Singapore, and stand out as a true witness of Christ Jesus.