



JACOB'S TROUBLE

WHO IS JACOB?

Hypocrite *hypokritēs* —was used to denote an actor, one who performed behind a mask. Thus the basic connotation of “hypocrisy” involved pretense or insincerity. Putting forward an outward appearance that does not comport with one’s true self. (Tyndale Bible Dictionary)

PRINCIPLE for TRANSFORMATION

Transformation is the removal of our masks

FEELS LIKE HOME

Then Jacob kissed Rachel and began to weep aloud. ¹² He had told Rachel that he was a relative of her father and a son of Rebekah. So she ran and told her father. ¹³ As soon as Laban heard the news about Jacob, his sister’s son, he hurried to meet him. He embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his home, and there Jacob told him all these things.

¹⁴ Then Laban said to him, “You are my own flesh and blood.”

Genesis 29:11-14a

PRINCIPLE for TRANSFORMATION

Is this a place I can start taking off my mask?

THE MASK OF LABAN

After Jacob had stayed with him for a whole month, ¹⁵ Laban said to him, “Just because you are a relative of mine, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be.”

¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel was lovely in form, and beautiful. ¹⁸ Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, “I’ll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel.”

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

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

²² So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast. ²³ But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and gave her to Jacob, and Jacob lay with her.

Genesis 29:14b-23

PRINCIPLE for TRANSFORMATION

Betrayal when you think you are safe needs a special kind of healing.

KEEPING THE MASK ON

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?”

²⁶ Laban replied, “It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. ²⁷ Finish this daughter’s bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work.”

Genesis 29:25-27

PRINCIPLE for TRANSFORMATION

Is transparency without discernment wise?

KEEPING COMMITMENTS, WALKING WITH CHARACTER

And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. ²⁹ Laban gave his servant girl Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as her maidservant. ³⁰ Jacob lay with Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah. And he worked for Laban another seven years.

Genesis 29:28-30

NEXT STEPS:

- o Learn Jacob’s Story — Read Genesis 12 - 50
- o Learn Your Story — Recommended Readings
 - Till We Have Faces* by CS Lewis
 - To Be Told: Know Your Story, Shape Your Future* by Dan B. Allendar
 - Boundaries* by Henry Cloud
 - Breaking Free* by Beth Moore
 - Good & Beautiful God* by James Bryan Smith
 - The Life You’ve Always Wanted* by John Ortberg
- o Share Your Story — Groups
- o Enter Jesus’ Story