



A SCAMMER GETS OUT SCAMMED

Whenever the stronger females were in heat, Jacob would place the branches in the troughs in front of the animals so they would mate near the branches,⁴² but if the animals were weak, he would not place them there. So the weak animals went to Laban and the strong ones to Jacob.⁴³ In this way the man grew exceedingly prosperous and came to own large flocks, and female and male servants, and camels and donkeys.

Genesis 30:41-43

TWO WRONGS DON'T MAKE A RIGHT

Jacob might have been overwhelmed by his situation

Jacob answered Laban, 'I was afraid, because I thought you would take your daughters away from me by force'. . . .³⁸ I have been with you for twenty years now. Your sheep and goats have not miscarried, nor have I eaten rams from your flocks.³⁹ I did not bring you animals torn by wild beasts; I bore the loss myself. And you demanded payment from me for whatever was stolen by day or night.⁴⁰ This was my situation: The heat consumed me in the daytime and the cold at night, and sleep fled from my eyes.⁴¹ It was like this for the twenty years I was in your household. I worked for you fourteen years for your two daughters and six years for your flocks, and you changed my wages ten times.

Genesis 31:31, 38-41

NOTES - The icons below may be helpful as you take notes on the outline.



Jacob might have justified his decision

You know that I've worked for your father with all my strength,⁷ yet your father has cheated me by changing my wages ten times.

Genesis 31:6-7

Jacob might have spiritualized his action

Then the LORD said to Jacob, 'Go back to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you.' . . .¹¹ The angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob.' I answered, 'Here I am.'¹² And he said, 'Look up and see that all the male goats mating with the flock are streaked, speckled or spotted, for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you.'¹³ I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to me. Now leave this land at once and go back to your native land.'

Genesis 31:3, 11-13

THE STRUGGLE IN ALL OF US

- o The Bent Toward Self — *Proverbs 14:12*
- o The Example of Cain — *Genesis 4:6-7*
- o The Example of Saul — *1 Samuel 13:1-13*
- o The Example of Paul — *Romans 7:21-24*

GOD'S GRACE IN OUR STRUGGLES

- o God's grace is sufficient — *Ephesians 2:8-9*
- o We are a work in progress — *Ephesians 2:10*

NEXT STEPS

- o Trust before acting — *Proverbs 3:5-6*
- o Meditate on — *Philippians 2:3-5*

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