

**HOW ARE WE TO RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVING DISCIPLINE?
LEARNING FROM JACOB'S INTERACTIONS WITH UNCLE LABAN
Genesis 29:1-30**

- I. WE MUST UNDERSTAND GOD WILL USE CIRCUMSTANCES, CONSEQUENCES AND EVEN DIFFICULT PEOPLE OVER TIME TO CONFORM US TO HIS IMAGE: The Lord begins to work on Jacob in the crucible of Laban's household (1-30)**
- A. Jacob arrives in Haran and meets Rachel and she tells her father Laban (1-12)

 - B. Jacob falls in love and works 7 years for Rachel (13-22)

 - C. Jacob is deceived by Laban on his wedding night and wakes up to the surprise of his life: "It was Leah!" (23-25a)

 - D. Jacob confronts Laban and Laban shrewdly answers and then offers Rachel also for 7 more years of service (25b-30)
- II. WE MUSTN'T MISS THE LESSONS WE NEED TO LEARN**
- A. **We need to prayerfully trust the Lord and seek His guidance in all our decisions, especially marriage (Gen 29)**

 - B. **We are not to be surprised when reap what we have sown, but instead we must submit to God and His refining purposes, as we experience the consequences of our sin**
 - 1. We will reap what we sow (Gal 6)

 - 2. Submit to God and the disciplinary consequences He uses the to refine us (Heb. 12)
 - a) Sometimes these come in the form of difficult people and situations (Gen 29)

 - b) Sometimes they are long lasting (Gen 29-31)

 - C. **We need to remember in all this, the Lord loves us and is doing good (Heb. 12)**