

SERMON NOTES

October 27, 2013

Scripture: Genesis 30:25 to 31:16 (NAS)

Topic: "Viewing Prosperity God's Way"

Rev. Bruce Gardner

- 25 Now it came about when Rachel had borne Joseph, that Jacob said to Laban, "Send me away, that I may go to my own place and to my own country.
- 26 "Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, and let me depart; for you yourself know my service which I have rendered you."
- 27 But Laban said to him, "If now it pleases you, stay with me; I have divined that the LORD has blessed me on your account."
- 28 He continued, "Name me your wages, and I will give it."
- 29 But he said to him, "You yourself know how I have served you and how your cattle have fared with me.
- 30 "For you had little before I came and it has increased to a multitude, and the LORD has blessed you wherever I turned. But now, when shall I provide for my own household also?"
- 31 So he said, "What shall I give you?" And Jacob said, "You shall not give me anything. If you will do this one thing for me, I will again pasture and keep your flock:
- 32 let me pass through your entire flock today, removing from there every speckled and spotted sheep and every black one among the lambs and the spotted and speckled among the goats; and such shall be my wages.
- 33 "So my honesty will answer for me later, when you come concerning my wages. Every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats and black among the lambs, if found with me, will be considered stolen."
- 34 Laban said, "Good, let it be according to your word."
- 35 So he removed on that day the striped and spotted male goats and all the speckled and spotted female goats, every one with white in it, and all the black ones among the sheep, and gave them into the care of his sons.
- 36 And he put a distance of three days' journey between himself and Jacob, and Jacob fed the rest of Laban's flocks.
- 37 Then Jacob took fresh rods of poplar and almond and plane trees, and peeled white stripes in them, exposing the white which was in the rods.
- 38 He set the rods which he had peeled in front of the flocks in the gutters, even in the watering troughs, where the flocks came to drink; and they mated when they came to drink.
- 39 So the flocks mated by the rods, and the flocks brought forth striped, speckled, and spotted.
- 40 Jacob separated the lambs, and made the flocks face toward the striped and all the black in the flock of Laban; and he put his own herds apart, and did not put them with Laban's flock.
- 41 Moreover, whenever the stronger of the flock were mating, Jacob would place the rods in the sight of the flock in the gutters, so that they might mate by the rods;
- 42 but when the flock was feeble, he did not put them in; so the feeble were Laban's and the stronger Jacob's.
- 43 So the man became exceedingly prosperous, and had large flocks and female and male servants and camels and donkeys.
- 1 Now Jacob heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, "Jacob has taken away all that was our father's, and from what belonged to our father he has made all this wealth."
- 2 Jacob saw the attitude of Laban, and behold, it was not friendly toward him as formerly.
- 3 Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you."
- 4 So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to his flock in the field,
- 5 and said to them, "I see your father's attitude, that it is not friendly toward me as formerly, but the God of my father has been with me.
- 6 You know that I have served your father with all my strength.
- 7 "Yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times; however, God did not allow him to hurt me.
- 8 "If he spoke thus, 'The speckled shall be your wages,' then all the flock brought forth speckled; and if he spoke thus, 'The striped shall be your wages,' then all the flock brought forth striped.
- 9 "Thus God has taken away your father's livestock and given them to me.
- 10 "And it came about at the time when the flock were mating that I lifted up my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, the male goats which were mating were striped, speckled, and mottled.
- 11 "Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Here I am.'
- 12 "He said, 'Lift up now your eyes and see that all the male goats which are mating are striped, speckled, and mottled; for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you.
- 13 'I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar, where you made a vow to Me; now arise, leave this land, and return to the land of your birth."
- 14 Rachel and Leah said to him, "Do we still have any portion or inheritance in our father's house?
- 15 "Are we not reckoned by him as foreigners? For he has sold us, and has also entirely consumed our purchase price.
- 16 "Surely all the wealth which God has taken away from our father belongs to us and our children; now then, do whatever God has said to you."

I. TWO WRONG VIEWS

- A. All Christians Should Be Extremely Prosperous
- B. Christians Should Give Up All Their Material Goods

II. JACOB GIVEN PROSPERITY

- A. He Came To The Land Poor
- B. He Would Leave "Exceedingly Prosperous"
- C. God Called Him To Return To His Homeland *Genesis 31:13*
- D. Jacob Used Strange Means To Acquire Prosperity *Genesis 28:17-22*
- E. Jacob Acknowledged His Prosperity Was From The Lord *James 1:17; I Corinthians 4:7*
- F. For Wages He Asked For That Which Only God Had Control *Genesis 31:5,7,9*

III. OUR PROSPERITY BELONGS TO THE LORD

- A. There Is A Freedom Which Accompanies That Truth
- B. His Will Should Guide Our Use Of It *Malachi 3:8-10*

IV. THE DANGERS OF PROSPERITY

- A. When We Struggle On The Path To Prosperity, Wonder If God Cares
- B. When We Are Prosperous, We Change Our Dependency To Wealth