

God Loves Messy Families

Genesis 29:16-30:24

Genesis 29:16

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

Genesis 29:17

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

Genesis 29:18

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

Genesis 29:19

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

Genesis 29:20

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

Genesis 29:21

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

Genesis 29:22

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

Genesis 29:23

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

Genesis 29:24

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

Genesis 29:25

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?"

Genesis 29:26

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

Genesis 29:27

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

Genesis 29:28

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

Genesis 29:29

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

Genesis 29:30

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

Genesis 29:31 When the Lord saw that Leah was hated, He opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.

What makes families messy?

Circumstances beyond our control.

Genesis 29:21

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

Genesis 29:22

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

Genesis 29:23

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

Simply leaving God out.

Proverbs 21:30

No wisdom, no understanding, no counsel can avail against the Lord.

Jeremiah 9:23

Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches,

Jeremiah 9:24

but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.”

1 Corinthians 3:19

For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness,"

1 Corinthians 3:20

and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile."

Our own destructive choices.**Galatians 6:7**

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

Galatians 6:8

For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

How does God offer hope for messy families?***God's love never falters.*****Isaiah 54:8 (ESV)**

In overflowing anger for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you," says the LORD, your Redeemer.

Isaiah 54:10 (ESV)

For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but My steadfast love shall not depart from you, and My covenant of peace shall not be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

God's plan never fades.**Romans 8:37**

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Romans 8:38

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,

Romans 8:39

nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God's grace never fails.

2 Corinthians 12:9

But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.