

# Jesus' Dysfunctional Family

## Matthew 1



## **Jacob: The Overlooked Child**

### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Iain M. Duguid, *Living in the Grip of Relentless Grace*, 2002.

Sidney Greidanus, *Preaching Christ from Genesis*, 2007.

Timothy Keller, *Logos Sermon Archive*.

Derek Kidner, *Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries: Genesis*, 1967.

Scott Sauls, *Befriend*, 2016.

### Head: Understanding the Bible

*“Everybody comes from pain and a certain amount of dysfunction.” - Mariel Hemingway*

- 1) Read Genesis 29 together. Is there something in this passage that you do not understand?
- 2) Why is Jacob looking for his Uncle Laban? What emotional state is he in right now?
- 3) What caused Jacob to deceive his father? What is the privilege that comes with being the firstborn?
- 4) Why is Jacob so easily deceived by Laban? Why doesn't he fight the injustice?
- 5) Compare Jacob and Leah's relationships with their father?

## Heart: Using the Gospel on Our Affections

*“The ultimate solution for all of us is not found among any of Leah’s or Rachel’s sons. It is to be found in Jesus, the true Israelite, the ultimate offspring of Jacob...He is the One who brings hope to the hopeless, rest to the weary and new life to the lost. He brings life even to those, like Leah and Rachel, who are hopelessly lost in their idolatries.”*

Ian Duguid, p. 90

6) Who is the one God blesses with the honor of being the mother of the Messiah? Why? Why is Jacob, the younger, chosen by God to be the father of the Messiah?

7) Consider Isaiah 53:1-3 & Matthew 27:39-43. Did Jesus look like he was God’s firstborn, the King of Kings? Why did God give you His grace?

## Hands: Applying the Gospel to Our Lives

*“...the love you experience from God the Father when you stand in the works and righteousness of Jesus Christ makes it feel like you’re the only one in the world. He says, ‘There’s no one like you,’ to all His children. This is true because Jesus said, ‘Those who believe in me Father, love them even as you love me.’”*

~Tim Keller

8) Hebrews 12:23 says the church is the assembly of the firstborn. In God’s family, every member is treated like they are the firstborn child. What are the benefits of being treated like this? How would you live differently if you knew this was true?

9) How should the gospel of grace, according to Jacob, affect our parenting? How does favoritism affect families? How does treating your spouse like they are your life affect the marriage? What can we learn from Leah’s wrestling in faith?

10) Take time to pray for grace to saturate all of our lives, including our parenting and our marriage. Pray for our children to understand grace.