

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

APRIL 5, 2023

GENESIS 31:36-42

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Laban pursued Jacob for seven days intending to do him harm. Why?
  - a) **GENESIS 31.27:** *"I might have sent you away with joy"* Jacob did not give him the chance.
  - b) **GENESIS 31.28:** *"And you did not allow me to kiss my sons and my daughters."*
2. Laban searched Jacob's tents for his idols but found no evidence of Jacob stealing.
  - a) **GENESIS 31.33:** He started with the most likely suspect.
  - b) **GENESIS 31.34,35:** Rachel hid the idols in her saddlebag. (Lev. 15.19-23)
  - c) **GENESIS 31.35:** *"And he searched but did not find the household idols."*
3. When Laban found no evidence to substantiate his accusations *"Jacob was angry and rebuked Laban"* (Gen. 31.36). This is not how he initially felt. (Gen. 31.31).

### I. THE ANGER OF JACOB

- A. Jacob was angry because of how he was treated by Laban.
  1. Jacob was falsely accused.
    - a) **GENESIS 31.36:** *"What is my trespass? What is my sin?"*
    - b) **GENESIS 31.30:** Stealing knowledge made sense, but *"why did you steal my gods."*
  2. Jacob was threatened.
    - a) **GENESIS 31.36:** *"...that you have so hotly pursued me?"*
    - b) What was Laban's intention in pursuing Jacob? (Gen. 31.29)
  3. Jacob was investigated.
    - a) **GENESIS 31.27:** *"Although you have searched all my things..."*
    - b) Jacob was willing to allow his investigation to prove his innocence. Gen. 31.32)
- B. Jacob was angry because of how he treated Laban.
  1. Jacob was a man of great skill. (Gen. 31.38).
  2. Jacob was a man of great integrity. (Gen. 31.38).
  3. Jacob was a man of great humility. (Gen. 31.39)
  4. Jacob was a man of great sacrifice. (Gen. 31.40)
  5. How did Laban repay him? (Gen. 31.41,42)

### II. IS ANGER EVER JUSTIFIED?

- A. We need to ask if our anger is justified?
  1. Was Jacob justified in being angry with Laban? (Gen. 31.41)
  2. Jesus had reasons to be angry. (Mark 3.5).
  3. **JONAH 4.4:** *"Then the LORD said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?'"*
- B. We need to control our anger.
  1. Did Jacob control his anger? Jacob never retaliated. (Gen. 31.38-40)
  2. Jesus never retaliated against those who put Him on the cross. (1 Pet. 2.21-23)
  3. **EPHESIANS 4.26:** *"Be angry"* (orge; imperative). In a context of being mistreated, we are commanded to be angry. (v. 26,27,31,32)
- C. We need to put injustices into the hands of God.
  1. Did Jacob trust in God's justice? (Gen. 31.42)
  2. Jesus trusted *"Him who judges righteously"* (1 Pet. 2.24)
  3. **ROMANS 12.17-21:** *"Do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath"*