

Deceived: Guarding Ourselves From Being Taken Advantage Of Genesis 28-31

- I. We Are _____ To Deception Especially When Related To Desires To Be Married – Guard Our Motives, Integrity And Religious Commitment (Gen 28:1-9)**

- II. Remember That The Only _____ We Can Really Trust Is God's (Gen 28:10-22)**

- III. Don't Be So Focused On _____ We Want That We Ignore _____ To Obtain It (Gen 29:1-30)**

- IV. _____ And Desperation, Even For Something Good, Makes Us More Susceptible To Manipulation (Gen 29:31 – 30:24)**

- V. Be _____ When Negotiating With A Deceptive Manipulator Because One Cannot Argue Against Integrity (Gen 30:25 – 31:42)**

- VI. Ultimately, God Is Our _____ To One's Integrity And Deceptiveness (Gen 31:34-55)**

Deceived: Guarding Ourselves From Being Taken Advantage Of Genesis 28-31

Introduction:

I. We Are Vulnerable To Deception Especially When Related To Desires To Be Married – Guard Our Motives, Integrity And Religious Commitment (Gen 28:1-9)

Genesis 28 1Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and directed him, "You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women. 2Arise, go to Paddan-aram to the house of Bethuel your mother's father, and take as your wife from there one of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother. 3God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples. 4May he give the blessing of Abraham to you and to your offspring with you, that you may take possession of the land of your sojournings that God gave to Abraham!" 5Thus Isaac sent Jacob away. And he went to Paddan-aram, to Laban, the son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother. 6Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan-aram to take a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he directed him, "You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women," 7and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and gone to Paddan-aram. 8So when Esau saw that the Canaanite women did not please Isaac his father, 9Esau went to Ishmael and took as his wife, besides the wives he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebaioth.

- Jacob followed his father's direction of avoiding the pagan Canaanite women and going to Laban's house (Rebekah's brother) v. 2
 - Isaac's blessing includes a reference to God as El Shaddai - almighty
- Esau (v. 6) – still jealous of the stolen blessing took more Canaanite wives
- Jacob – was vulnerable because of desperation, needing acceptance and companionship
 - He would fall in love and trust blindly
- Esau was vulnerable because of being spiteful of his parents and being jealous of his brother
 - He would marry Canaanite women just to spite his father
 - Ishmael had been dead 14 years at this point and married Ishmael's daughter Mahalath
 - And to prove something over his brother
- We are most vulnerable to deception when we aren't thinking correctly
- Our motivations drive us to try to prove something
 - I can get rich without God's help
 - I can be more popular than my competition
 - I can succeed in relationships better than my sibling rival
 - I'll show my parents that I can accomplish what they don't think I can
- So we compromise our:

- Motivations (about self)
- Integrity (ends justifies the means)
- Religious Devotion (Esau forsook faith in God to feed his fleshly needs)

II. Remember That The Only Promise We Can Really Trust Is God's (Gen 28:10-22)

Genesis 28 10 Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. **11** And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. **12** And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! **13** And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. **14** Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. **15** Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." **16** Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." **17** And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

18 So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. **19** He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first. **20** Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, **21** so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, **22** and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you."

- Ladder – probably more of a stairway than a ladder
- Probably resembling a 2 way escalator

Jacob's Ladder Represents:

- Going Up: God's **Authority** To Man (12-14)
 - Ladder
 - Ascending and Descending Angels
 - God stood above ladder (13a)
 - "I AM" (13b)
- Going Down: God's **Accessibility** To Man (15-16)
 - I am with you
 - I will keep you
 - I will bring you back
 - I will not leave you
 - I will do what I promised you

- Theological, this depicts God as both **Transcendent** (above) and **Imminent** (involved) with man
- Jacob's response to the God of Promise: "If **God will be with me and will keep me** in this way that **I go**"
- "Luz Bethel" = house of God (19)
- Jacob committed himself to respond to God's blessing by returning to the land in peace, worshipping God (21) and tithing (22)

III. Don't Be So Focused On What We Want That We Ignore How To Obtain It (Gen 29:1-30)

Genesis 29 **1**Then Jacob went on his journey and came to the land of the people of the east. **2**As he looked, he saw a well in the field, and behold, three flocks of sheep lying beside it, for out of that well the flocks were watered. The stone on the well's mouth was large, **3**and when all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would roll the stone from the mouth of the well and water the sheep, and put the stone back in its place over the mouth of the well.

4Jacob said to them, "My brothers, where do you come from?" They said, "We are from Haran." **5**He said to them, "Do you know Laban the son of Nahor?" They said, "We know him." **6**He said to them, "Is it well with him?" They said, "It is well; and see, Rachel his daughter is coming with the sheep!" **7**He said, "Behold, it is still high day; it is not time for the livestock to be gathered together. Water the sheep and go, pasture them." **8**But they said, "We cannot until all the flocks are gathered together and the stone is rolled from the mouth of the well; then we water the sheep."

9While he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess. **10**Now as soon as Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, Jacob came near and rolled the stone from the well's mouth and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother. **11**Then Jacob kissed Rachel and wept aloud. **12**And Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's kinsman, and that he was Rebekah's son, and she ran and told her father.

13As soon as Laban heard the news about Jacob, his sister's son, he ran to meet him and embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his house. Jacob told Laban all these things, **14**and Laban said to him, "Surely you are my bone and my flesh!" And he stayed with him a month.

15Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" **16**Now Laban had two daughters. The name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. **17**Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance. **18**Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." **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." **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.

21Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." **22**So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. **23**But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. **24**(Laban

gave his female servant Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her servant.) **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?" **26**Laban said, "It is not so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn.**27**Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." **28**Jacob did so, and completed her week. Then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. **29**(Laban gave his female servant Bilhah to his daughter Rachel to be her servant.) **30**So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah, and served Laban for another seven years.

- Rachel was tending sheep – usually a guy’s job but Laban had no sons old enough yet to tend sheep (Laban’s sons aren’t mentioned for another 20 years)
- V. 10 – Jacob responded solely to Rachel’s attractiveness – he was not praying or seeking confirmation of God’s will
- V. 11 – he kisses her and she doesn’t repel it
- V. 11 – he cries overcome with joy
- V. 13 – Laban hurried – knowing this was a person of wealth and use
- Jacob was so smitten by Rachel, he fell for Laban’s “Bait and Switch”
- Jacob took advantage of Isaac’s blindness, now Laban takes advantage of the darkness and veil over Isaac
- Imprisoned investor Bernie Madoff used his reputation and promise of high returns to steal billions of dollars from trusting friends because they focused so much on what they would get and not pay attention on how they would get it – and Bernie Made-Off
- There’s something we want to buy and we think that just because we have a credit card means that we could afford it – but then we get into debt
- Jacob worked 7 years for Leah, 7 years for Rachel
- 7 years was like a few days to Jacob because of his love – but it was still 7 years

IV. Envy And Desperation, Even For Something Good, Makes Us More Susceptible To Manipulation (Gen 29:31 – 30:24)

Genesis 29 31When the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. **32**And Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben, for she said, "Because the LORD has looked upon my affliction; for now my husband will love me." **33**She conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Because the LORD has heard that I am hated, he has given me this son also." And she called his name Simeon.^d **34**Again she conceived and bore a son, and said, "Now this time my husband will be attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." Therefore his name was called Levi.^e **35**And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "This time I will praise the LORD." Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she ceased bearing.

Genesis 30 1When Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she envied her sister. She said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I shall die!" **2**Jacob’s anger was kindled against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?" **3**Then she said, "Here

is my servant Bilhah; go in to her, so that she may give birth on my behalf, that even I may have children through her." **4**So she gave him her servant Bilhah as a wife, and Jacob went in to her. **5**And Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son. **6**Then Rachel said, "God has judged me, and has also heard my voice and given me a son." Therefore she called his name Dan. **7**Rachel's servant Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son. **8**Then Rachel said, "With mighty wrestlings I have wrestled with my sister and have prevailed." So she called his name Naphtali.

9When Leah saw that she had ceased bearing children, she took her servant Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife. **10**Then Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a son. **11**And Leah said, "Good fortune has come!" so she called his name Gad. **12**Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a second son. **13**And Leah said, "Happy am I! For women have called me happy." So she called his name Asher.^g

14In the days of wheat harvest Reuben went and found mandrakes in the field and brought them to his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes." **15**But she said to her, "Is it a small matter that you have taken away my husband? Would you take away my son's mandrakes also?" Rachel said, "Then he may lie with you tonight in exchange for your son's mandrakes." **16**When Jacob came from the field in the evening, Leah went out to meet him and said, "You must come in to me, for I have hired you with my son's mandrakes." So he lay with her that night. **17**And God listened to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son. **18**Leah said, "God has given me my wages because I gave my servant to my husband." So she called his name Issachar.

19And Leah conceived again, and she bore Jacob a sixth son. **20**Then Leah said, "God has endowed me with a good endowment; now my husband will honor me, because I have borne him six sons." So she called his name Zebulun. **21**Afterward she bore a daughter and called her name Dinah.

22Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb. **23**She conceived and bore a son and said, "God has taken away my reproach." **24**And she called his name Joseph, saying, "May the LORD add to me another son!"

- Leah was certainly the least favored wife but she bore him 4 sons quickly
- Reuben (32) – "See, a son!"
- Simeon (33) – "hearing"
- Levi (34) – "attachment" – demonstrating Leah's longing to have an attachment with Jacob
- Judah (35) – "to praise"

- 30:1 – Rachel feels condemned because she is barren

- But instead of trusting God to open her womb, she employs her handmaid Bilhah – brought forth Dan & Naphtali

- Then Leah gives her handmaid Zilpah over to Jacob – bore Gad and Asher

- Rachel finally bears a child – Joseph – "to add"

-

V. Be Honest When Negotiating With A Deceptive Manipulator Because One Cannot Argue Against Integrity (Gen 30:25 – 31:42)

Genesis 30 25As soon as Rachel had borne Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, "Send me away, that I may go to my own home and country. **26**Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, that I may go, for you know the service that I have given you." **27**But Laban said to him, "If I have found favor in your sight, I have learned by divination that the LORD has blessed me because of you. **28**Name your wages, and I will give it." **29**Jacob said to him, "**You yourself know how I have served you, and how your livestock has fared with me.** **30**For you had little before I came, and it has increased abundantly, and the LORD has blessed you wherever I turned. But now when shall I provide for my own household also?" **31**He said, "What shall I give you?" Jacob said, "You shall not give me anything. If you will do this for me, I will again pasture your flock and keep it: **32**let me pass through all your flock today, removing from it every speckled and spotted sheep and every black lamb, and the spotted and speckled among the goats, and they shall be my wages. **33**So my honesty will answer for me later, when you come to look into my wages with you. Every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats and black among the lambs, if found with me, shall be counted stolen." **34**Laban said, "**Good! Let it be as you have said.**" **35**But that day Laban removed the male goats that were striped and spotted, and all the female goats that were speckled and spotted, every one that had white on it, and every lamb that was black, and put them in the charge of his sons. **36**And he set a distance of three days' journey between himself and Jacob, and Jacob pastured the rest of Laban's flock.

37Then Jacob took fresh sticks of poplar and almond and plane trees, and peeled white streaks in them, exposing the white of the sticks. **38**He set the sticks that he had peeled in front of the flocks in the troughs, that is, the watering places, where the flocks came to drink. And since they bred when they came to drink, **39**the flocks bred in front of the sticks and so the flocks brought forth striped, speckled, and spotted. **40**And Jacob separated the lambs and set the faces of the flocks toward the striped and all the black in the flock of Laban. He put his own droves apart and did not put them with Laban's flock. **41**Whenever the stronger of the flock were breeding, Jacob would lay the sticks in the troughs before the eyes of the flock, that they might breed among the sticks, **42**but for the feebler of the flock he would not lay them there. So the feebler would be Laban's, and the stronger Jacob's. **43**Thus the man increased greatly and had large flocks, female servants and male servants, and camels and donkeys.

Genesis 31 1Now Jacob heard that the sons of Laban were saying, "Jacob has taken all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has gained all this wealth." **2**And Jacob saw that Laban did not regard him with favor as before. **3**Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you."

4So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah into the field where his flock was **5**and said to them, "I see that your father does not regard me with favor as he did before. 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.** But **God did not permit him to harm me.** **8**If he said, 'The spotted shall be your wages,' then all the flock bore spotted; and if he said, 'The striped shall be your wages,' then all the flock bore striped. **9**Thus God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me. **10**In the breeding season of the flock I lifted up my eyes and saw in a dream that the goats that mated with the flock were striped, spotted, and mottled. **11**Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Here I am!' **12**And he said, 'Lift up your eyes and see, all the goats that mate with the flock are striped, spotted, and mottled, for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. **13**I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and made a vow to me. Now arise, go out from this land and return to the land of your kindred.'" **14**Then Rachel and Leah answered and said to him, "Is there any portion or inheritance left to us in our father's house? **15**Are we not regarded by him as foreigners? For he has sold us, and he has indeed

devoured our money. **16**All the wealth that God has taken away from our father belongs to us and to our children. Now then, whatever God has said to you, do."

17So Jacob arose and set his sons and his wives on camels. **18**He drove away all his livestock, all his property that he had gained, the livestock in his possession that he had acquired in Paddan-aram, to go to the land of Canaan to his father Isaac. **19**Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and **Rachel stole** her father's household gods. **20**And Jacob **tricked** Laban the Aramean, by not telling him that he intended to flee.**21**He fled with all that he had and arose and crossed the Euphrates, and set his face toward the hill country of Gilead.

22When it was told Laban on the third day that Jacob had fled, **23**he took his kinsmen with him and pursued him for seven days and followed close after him into the hill country of Gilead. **24**But God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream by night and said to him, "Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad."

25And Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country, and Laban with his kinsmen pitched tents in the hill country of Gilead. **26**And Laban said to Jacob, "What have you done, that you have tricked me and driven away my daughters like captives of the sword? **27**Why did you flee secretly and trick me, and did not tell me, so that I might have sent you away with mirth and songs, with tambourine and lyre? **28**And why did you not permit me to **kiss my sons and my daughters** farewell? Now you have done **foolishly**. **29**It is in my power to do you **cc**. But the God of your father spoke to me last night, saying, 'Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.' **30**And now you have gone away because you longed greatly for your father's house, but why did you steal my gods?" **31**Jacob answered and said to Laban, "Because I was afraid, for I thought that you would take your daughters from me by force. **32**Anyone with whom you find your gods shall not live. In the presence of our kinsmen point out what I have that is yours, and take it." Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them.

33So Laban went into Jacob's tent and into Leah's tent and into the tent of the two female servants, but he did not find them. And he went out of Leah's tent and entered Rachel's. **34**Now Rachel had taken the household gods and put them in the camel's saddle and sat on them. Laban felt all about the tent, but did not find them. **35**And she said to her father, "Let not my lord be angry that I cannot rise before you, for the way of women is upon me." So he searched but did not find the household gods.

36Then Jacob became angry and berated Laban. Jacob said to Laban, "**What is my offense? What is my sin, that you have hotly pursued me?** **37**For you have felt through all my goods; what have you found of all your household goods? Set it here before my kinsmen and your kinsmen, that they may decide between us two. **38**These twenty years I have been with you. Your ewes and your female goats have not miscarried, and I have not eaten the rams of your flocks. **39**What was torn by wild beasts I did not bring to you. I bore the loss of it myself. From my hand you required it, whether stolen by day or stolen by night. **40**There I was: by day the heat consumed me, and the cold by night, and my sleep fled from my eyes. **41****These twenty years I have been in your house. I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times.** **42****If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been on my side, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God saw my affliction and the labor of my hands and rebuked you last night.**"

- Jacob planned to flee – but he would lie about it and Rachel stole her father’s idols when they left
- Laban catches up to them
- Jacob negotiated his release
- Laban still wanted part of Jacob’s prosperity
- Goats are divided – speckled belonged to Laban
 - Jacob may have divided the goats superstitiously
 - But modern genetics have demonstrated that spotting is a recessive gene in goats
 - Jacob would actually get the dominant gene goats
- 31:1 – Laban’s sons accuse Jacob of stealing because he’s more prosperous
- The only thing Jacob could prove was his hard work and integrity
- He recounted how Laban changed his wages 10x

VI. Ultimately, God Is Our Witness To One’s Integrity And Deceptiveness (31:34-55)

43Then Laban answered and said to Jacob, “The daughters are my daughters, the children are my children, the flocks are my flocks, and all that you see is mine. But what can I do this day for these my daughters or for their children whom they have borne? **44**Come now, let us make a covenant, you and I. And let it be a witness between you and me.” **45**So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar. **46**And Jacob said to his kinsmen, “Gather stones.” And they took stones and made a heap, and they ate there by the heap. **47**Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha, but Jacob called it Galeed. **48**Laban said, “This heap is a witness between you and me today.” Therefore he named it Galeed, **49**and Mizpah, for he said, “The LORD watch between you and me, when we are out of one another’s sight. **50**If you oppress my daughters, or if you take wives besides my daughters, although no one is with us, see, God is witness between you and me.”

51Then Laban said to Jacob, “See this heap and the pillar, which I have set between you and me. **52**This heap is a witness, and the pillar is a witness, that I will not pass over this heap to you, and you will not pass over this heap and this pillar to me, to do harm. **53**The God of Abraham and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge between us.” So Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac, **54**and Jacob offered a sacrifice in the hill country and called his kinsmen to eat bread. They ate bread and spent the night in the hill country.

55 Early in the morning Laban arose and kissed his grandchildren and his daughters and blessed them. Then Laban departed and returned home.