

“Blessed” - Genesis 30:25-34, 41-43

Ask - “Have you ever wanted to change jobs and been offered an incentive to stay? Share.”

Background - Jacob left his home and traveled to the land of Paddan-aram. He lived there and worked for his uncle Laban for over 14 years. During this time he married Laban’s 2 daughters - Leah first, and then Rachel. They, along with their handmaidens, collectively gave birth to 11 of his sons.

“Jacob’ Request” - Genesis 30:25-30

(v25-26) After Joseph was born, what did Jacob request of Laban? Who did Jacob want to take with him?

(v27-28) Did Laban want Jacob to leave or stay? Why? What did he offer to entice Jacob to stay?

(v29-30) How had Jacob’s work during the many years he spent with his uncle impacted Laban’s wealth? But now, who did Jacob want to work for?

AFTER WORKING FOR HIS UNCLE FOR SEVERAL YEARS, GETTING MARRIED TWICE, AND STARTING A FAMILY, JACOB DECIDED THAT IT WAS TIME TO GO HOME. HOWEVER, LABAN DIDN’T WANT HIM TO LEAVE.

“Jacob’s Counter-Offer” - Genesis 30:31-34

(v31-32) What counter-offer did Jacob make to Laban as a condition for staying? Describe the type of animals that Jacob wanted for his own flock.

(v33) How did Jacob reassure Laban that he would only take from among his flock those animals that he had described? How would he be held accountable?

(v34) Did Laban agree to Jacob’s counter-offer? Read and discuss verses 35-36.

JACOB OFFERED TO STAY IF HIS UNCLE WOULD GIVE HIM ALL OF HIS SPECKLED AND SPOTTED GOATS AND HIS BLACK LAMBS. LABAN AGREED TO THESE TERMS AND SO JACOB STAYED AND TENDED HIS OWN FLOCK AS WELL AS LABAN’S.

“Jacob’s Success” - Genesis 30:41-43

(v41) Read verses 37-40. Research how Jacob was selectively breeding these flocks. Besides the colors and markings on the sheep and goats, what other characteristic was Jacob concerned about?

(v42) Who got the stronger kids and lambs and who got the weaker ones?

(v43) Over time, what happened with Jacob and his flocks? How did he prosper?

BY SELECTIVELY BREEDING THE ANIMALS, JACOB QUICKLY BUILT UP LARGE AND STRONG FLOCKS FOR HIMSELF. HE BECAME EXTREMELY PROSPEROUS.

Application - Laban had taken advantage of Jacob by giving him his daughter Leah, rather than Rachel, as he'd promised. Jacob worked for his uncle 14 years before finally marrying his beloved Rachel. During this time, Jacob had made Laban into a wealthy man. Now Jacob wanted to shepherd his own flocks, but Laban didn't want him to leave. So Jacob, perhaps still harboring some resentment toward his uncle, seized the opportunity to use Laban's success as a springboard for his own. Have you ever felt unappreciated at work or thought about how you might do something about it?