

**Lesson # 65 ( February 19, 2019)****Genesis 31.25-55    The Lord fights for you**

**25** The next morning Laban caught up with Jacob. Jacob had set up his camp on the mountain, so Laban and all his men set up their camp in the hill country of Gilead. **26** Laban said to Jacob, “Why did you trick me? Why did you take my daughters like they were women you captured during war? **27** Why did you run away without telling me? If you had told me, I would have given you a party. There would have been singing and dancing with music. **28** You didn’t even let me kiss my grandchildren and my daughters goodbye. You were very foolish to do this! **29** I have the power to really hurt you. But last night the God of your father came to me in a dream. He warned me not to hurt you in any way. **30** I know that you want to go back to your home. That is why you left. But why did you steal the gods from my house?” **31** Jacob answered, “I left without telling you, because I was afraid. I thought you would take your daughters away from me. **32** But I did not steal your gods. If you find anyone here with me who has taken your gods, they will be killed. Your men will be my witnesses. You can look for anything that belongs to you. Take anything that is yours.” (Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen Laban’s gods.) **33** So Laban went and looked through Jacob’s camp. He looked in Jacob’s tent and then in Leah’s tent. Then he looked in the tent where the two slave women stayed, but he did not find the gods from his house. Then he went into Rachel’s tent. **34** Rachel had hidden the gods inside her camel’s saddle, and she was sitting on them. Laban looked through the whole tent, but he did not find the gods. **35** And Rachel said to her father, “Father, don’t be angry with me. I am not able to stand up before you. I am having my monthly time of bleeding.” So Laban looked through the camp, but he did not find the gods from his house. **36** Then Jacob became very angry and said, “What wrong have I done? What law have I broken? What right do you have to chase me and stop me? **37** You looked through everything I own and found nothing that belongs to you. If you found something, show it to me. Put it here where our men can see it. Let our men decide which one of us is right. **38** I have worked 20 years for you. During all that time none of the baby sheep and goats died during birth. And I have not eaten any of the rams from your flocks. **39** Any time a sheep was killed by wild animals, I always paid for the loss myself. I did not take the dead animal to you and say that it was not my fault. But I was robbed day and night. **40** In the daytime the sun took away my strength, and at night sleep was taken from my eyes by the cold. **41** I worked 20 years like a slave for you. For the first 14 years I worked to win your two daughters. The last six years I worked to earn your animals. And during that time you changed my pay ten times. **42** But the God of my ancestors, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, was with me. If God had not been with me, you

would have sent me away with nothing. But he saw the trouble that I had and the work that I did, and last night God proved that I am right.”

### **Jacob and Laban’s Treaty**

**43** Laban said to Jacob, “These women are my daughters. These children belong to me, and these animals are mine. Everything you see here belongs to me, but I can do nothing to keep my daughters and their children. **44** So I am ready to make an agreement with you. We will set up a pile of stones to show that we have an agreement.” **45** So Jacob found a large rock and put it there to show that he had made an agreement. **46** He told his men to find some more rocks and to make a pile of rocks. Then they ate beside the pile of rocks.

**47** Laban named that place Yegar Sahadutha. But Jacob named that place Galeed. **48** Laban said to Jacob, “This pile of rocks will help us both remember our agreement.” That is why Jacob called the place Galeed.

**49** Then Laban said, “Let the Lord watch over us while we are separated from each other.” So that place was also named Mizpah. **50** Then Laban said, “If you hurt my daughters, remember that God will punish you. If you marry other women, remember that God is watching. **51** Here are the rocks that I have put between us, and here is the special rock to show that we made an agreement.

**52** This pile of rocks and this one special rock both help us to remember our agreement. I will never go past these rocks to fight against you, and you must never go on my side of these rocks to fight against me. **53** May the God of Abraham, the God of Nahor, and the God of their ancestors judge us guilty if we break this agreement.” Jacob’s father, Isaac, called God “Fear.” So Jacob used that name to make the promise. **54** Then Jacob killed an animal and offered it as a sacrifice on the mountain. And he invited his men to come and share a meal. After they finished eating, they spent the night on the mountain. **55** Early the next morning Laban kissed his grandchildren and his daughters goodbye. He blessed them and went back home.

## **IMPORTANT**

- \* Wrong actions will always bring poor results
- \* Those who try to look spiritual but are mean to people are just religious people
- \* God will always protect those who rely on Him
- \* God is calling us to repent. To show actions of decency, respect and fear for the Lord.