September 25

The Family

The First Peyton Place

A Soap Opera for those too young to remember Peyton Place! Jacob received both Leah and Rachel for wives, Jacob loved Rachel more and God saw this and allowed Leah to have the children.

Rachel understandably became jealous of Leah – Read Genesis 30:1. Jacob was caught in the middle of Rachel and Leah and for that matter himself and God – Read: Genesis 30:2.

In our lives we encounter jealousy like Rachel, over children, or the lack of children. God determines if we are to have children or not, we can pray but if we pray for God’s will to be done then we must accept God’s choice. Jealousy is such a waste of energy!

Bilhah, Rachel’s handmaid saved face for Rachel by giving Jacob two sons. Leah realized she had quit having children so she gave Zilpah to Jacob and she gave him two sons.

What an interesting family!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Genesis 30:20

PRAYER THOUGHT: A prayer of thanks for my children and a special prayer for those that do not have children and want them, that you will answer their prayer in favor of children.

September 26

A Special Son

The Mandrakes

Reuben, Leah’s son found mandrakes in the wheat fields; mandrakes are plants believed to produce fertility and were used as love charms.

Rachel wanted the mandrakes because of her inability to have children, she allowed Leah to sleep with Jacob for the mandrakes. Leah’s prayers were answered and she became pregnant again giving Jacob his fifth son by her. Twice more she became pregnant had another son and a daughter.

Read: Genesis 30:22. Finally God remembered Rachel and what a blessing for Rachel when she became pregnant and had a son, which she named Joseph because Rachel wanted more children, Joseph sounds like the Hebrew for “may he give me another.”

God answers prayers for us today too; we must first pray and then have enough faith that God will answer them.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Genesis 30:23

PRAYER THOUGHT: Praise be to You, O Lord, for all the prayers you have answered for me. Help me to always know you are there trough good and bad.

September 27

Jacob’s Bargain

Jacob Prospers

Jacob decided it was time to return to his family in Canaan, but when he approached Laban – Read: Genesis 30: 27, 28.

This was the wages that Jacob wanted – Read: Genesis 30:32.

Jacob took these “misfits” and increased his flocks by putting green braches of poplar, almond and plane trees, after stripping away some of the bark, in front of the feeding troughs his flock used and for some reason the animals would breed among these branches. Jacobs’s flocks grew and Jacob became very wealthy.

In this world of sin and corruption, Christians are the “misfits”, our numbers can increase too, if we witness to others the love of God we feel in our hearts and let our daily lives reflect what God ahs cone in our lives. Our wealth may not be in material things but the wealth in our heart is eternal.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Genesis 30:43

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to witness to someone today; maybe not the gospel story, but let just how I talk and act reflect your love.

September 28

A Journey

Jacob Flees

Laban and his sons become unfriendly toward Jacob – Read: Genesis 31:1-3.

Jacob met with his wives in the fields were the flocks were and followed God’s instructions and left with his family and possessions.

Laban and his sons pursued Jacob and after seven days caught up with Jacob – Read: Genesis 31:24. Laban was looking for his household gods but did not find them.

Jacob was fortunate to have God on his side and he knew it- Read: Genesis 31:42.

Jacob and Laban came to another agreement; one part was that Jacob would not mistreat Laban’s daughters and that Jacob and Laban would leave each other alone.

We are fortunate that God is on our side as well, God is always with us, if someone has moved away it isn’t God!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Hebrews 4:16

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you O lord, for the blessed peace you give me by knowing that you are always with me.

September 29

A Struggle

Jacob Wrestles

Laban and Jacob split and Jacob prepares to meet Esau.

Jacob sent all the family and possessions across the River Jabbok but Jacob stayed behind alone.

A man arrived and started to wrestle Jacob until dawn – Read: Genesis 32:25. The man wanted Jacob to let him go but Jacob wouldn’t without a blessing – read Genesis 32:28, 29. Jacob then named the place of the encounter – Read: Genesis 32:30.

Jacob had seen God through this man and lived. We have not seen God but have faith that we will someday and live eternally with Him!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Genesis 32:32

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you, O Lord, for your Son that died that we can have eternal life. Help my faith to endure to the time of my death or your second coming so I can live eternally with you.

September 30

The Reunion

Meeting Esau

Jacob was worried and afraid of meeting Esau, because when they had parted Esau was very angry with Jacob over losing his father’s blessing.

Jacob sent servants on ahead with all kinds of gifts to win Esau’s favor, when they finally caught sight of one another, Jacob bowed down – Read: Genesis 33:4

When we move away from God and return, God welcomes us like Esau met Jacob with open arms and love. God does not want anyone to be lost!

Their separation was to do fear and anger between the brothers, in spite of the gifts Jacob sent the love between the brothers was restored.

Our tithes, offerings and the time we spend in actual witnessing and church related activities are gifts unto the Lord but should not be thought of in terms of gaining God’s favor, instead should be done because we love the Lord and want to witness to the world of our Savior.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Genesis 33:10, 11

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to have the right attitude in giving my tithes, offerings and gifts of time to you.