



Message #2:

"A Tale of Two Wives"

Scriptures and Devotions for June 14-20

Monday, June 15 Read Psalm 105:1-11;45b

In addition to its words of praise and reverence for God, this psalm also presents a reminder that that praise is lived out through a trust in and submission to, God's plans for His People. We struggle to praise God when our plans are not the same as God's plans. Prayerfully reflect on where you experience this conflict in your own life. _____

How can you cultivate a life of deeper submission to God and what would be the first step? _____

_____ Discuss this with God in prayer today.

Tuesday June 16 Read Genesis 29:1-30

Take a close look at the characters in this story. What is driving them? _____

_____ What is their ultimate goal and how might it be different from what God has planned for His people? _____

A Tale of Two Wives

June 14, 2020

Scripture: Genesis 29:15-25

1. God can use even our selfishness and short-sightedness to further His plans...

2. ...but we may well have to learn from the consequences!

Is there a lesson here for your own life and what are some ways we can be more receptive to God's larger vision? _____

Wednesday, June 17 Read Genesis 29:31-30:24

Odd though the trick with the poplar rods is to our modern eyes, note that both Jacob and Laban are still scheming and trying to gain an advantage over the other. For all of their selfish back and forth, though, note that it was essential for God's chosen people (the descendants of Jacob) to start off in life independent, prosperous and free. How is God making use of Jacob's skills? _____

How do we reconcile this with Jacob's seeming lack of scruples? _____

In what ways can it be said that Jacob is (at least vaguely) trusting in the Lord? _____



"A Tale of Two Wives"

Thursday, June 18 Read Genesis 30:25-31:3

Setting aside the cultural strangeness of this story's ancient setting, jealousy is a common human denominator across the centuries. Why are neither Rachael nor Leah satisfied with what they have in their lives?

Note too that even getting what they wanted didn't ease the tension between them. Where does jealousy crop up in your life? Why? _____

How might focusing on God and seeking God's ways help overcome such a challenge? _____

Friday, June 19 Read Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The unexpected nature of God's Kingdom unfolding around us is expressed in these short parables. Often we miss what God intends because we refuse to really look or to think outside of our own preconceived notions. Think of times God has done unexpected work in your life. More importantly this unexpected nature of God's working is to be a source of hope rather than fear. What helps us be hopeful when things do not turn out as we expect? _____

Saturday, June 20 Read Psalm 128

Note that before you can come to the blessings described in vv.2-5, you must first base your confidence on the guidelines of v.1. How often are we disappointed because our definition of success doesn't coincide with God's larger plans? _____

Can you think of some times in your life when this has been the case for you? _____

