



#DEATHTOSELFIE

sermon highlights

#DEATHTOSELFIE

WEEK FOUR: SISTER WIVES (STUDENT TAKEOVER WEEKEND)

In the 4th week of *Death To Selfie*, Pastor Steven walked us through the story of Jacob's marriage to two sisters. Their story personifies our own rejection and frustration, and illustrates God's purposes through it all.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

[Genesis 29](#)

[Genesis 30:1-24](#)

[2 Corinthians 5:20](#)

[Matthew 1:1-2,17](#)

[Matthew 21:42](#)

SISTER WIVES

-After his encounter with God at Bethel, Jacob precedes to the house of his uncle Laban. There he meets Laban's beautiful daughter Rachel, and he falls in love with her. Laban agrees to let Jacob work for him seven years for Rachel's hand in marriage. He works seven years, but on the wedding night, Laban tricks Jacob and gives him his older daughter, Leah, instead. After waking the next morning and discovering he has married Leah, Jacob goes to Laban, who agrees to give him Rachel also, if he will work another seven years.

-Jacob had worked tirelessly for seven years, expecting to take Rachel as his wife. However he woke up to find himself lying next to Leah. Jacob, the trickster, had finally been tricked. As Pastor Steven preached, we sow what we reap. If we live a lie, we'll eventually wake up lying next to Leah. When we pretend to be something in order to get something, we'll work for one thing, but we'll wake up next to something else.

-Jacob's wives are an illustration of law and of grace. He had to work seven years before marrying Leah. This illustrates the law of the Old Testament--working to get God. But Jacob married Rachel and then served his seven years for her. This illustrates grace--in Jesus we get God, then serve Him out of that love.

REJECTION

-Leah was not loved by Jacob, so she strove to win his love by bearing him many sons. She even gave Jacob her maidservant to get more sons for him. But even after all her striving, Jacob still didn't love her.

-All of us have faced some sort of rejection, like Leah. We try to earn acceptance through achievements. We think that maybe the next job, getting the next A, doing that next thing will make "them" finally accept us.

-But as Pastor Steven proclaimed, "What Jacob rejects is what God selects." When God saw that Leah was not loved, He enabled her to conceive. God looks at what people don't want, and says, "I choose you." We all have flaws and defects that cause us to be rejected, but God chooses us.

-We need to stop living to earn acceptance through achievement because we're already accepted in Jesus. Isaiah says that Jesus was despised and rejected. He was rejected so that we could be accepted.

-God chose Leah to bear Judah, whose name means praise. From the line of Judah, God brought forth Jesus, the Savior of the world. Pastor Steven declared that when God wants to bring Jesus to a generation, He always chooses the Leahs, the rejected ones. We are a chosen people, set apart to bring Jesus to the world.

FRUSTRATION

-Rachel had a lovely figure, but she struggled greatly with frustration because she had a barren womb. She went to great extremes to get a son, even selling Leah a night with Jacob in order to buy infertility medicine.

-As Pastor Steven said, it's possible to be like Rachel, outwardly looking like we've got it together, but inwardly hurting and miserable. Just because someone's life looks beautiful from the outside, doesn't mean it's fruitful on the inside. We're all struggling with something, and we need to be careful thinking someone else's life is perfect because we have no idea what they're going through.

-We live in a world that emphasizes external beauty so much that many people have figured out how to be liked by people, but don't really like themselves.

GOD USES IT ALL

-The sisters' struggles with rejection and frustration resulted in a big complicated family mess. But while all they saw was the mess, God saw the nation of Israel being formed. The twelve sons that came from these sisters became the twelve tribes of Israel. God worked through the mess to fulfill His promise to Abraham.

-When we face rejection and frustration, we need to remember that it's not about us. It's about something much greater. God is working through everything in our lives, the good and bad, to build His kingdom on earth.