

January 29-Genesis 29

Did you know that the phrase “what goes around comes around” has some biblical justification? The Bible tells us that we “reap what we sow” (Galatians 6:7), which means that we get back the result of what we do. For instance, if you “sow seeds” of sinfulness you are going to get the results of sin. If you “sow seeds” of kindness, you will receive acts of kindness.

This principle is no more clearly illustrated in Scripture than in Genesis 29. If you remember, in Genesis 27, Jacob fooled Isaac into giving him the blessing that rightfully belonged to Esau. He did this by disguising himself giving the appearance of being Esau. Once Jacob was blessed, there was no way to reverse or take back the blessing. Now, fast forward to the story recorded in Genesis 29. Jacob had followed the advice of his parents and had gone to Laban’s house where he first laid eyes on Rachel (Laban’s daughter) and immediately fell in love. Laban was a shrewd man and he knew that Jacob would do anything to have Rachel. So, he made a deal with Jacob that he would give Rachel to Jacob in return for seven years of service. The Bible says that “Jacob served seven years for Rachel” (verse 20). At the end of 7 years, Laban gathered everyone together and had a feast in celebration of the marriage. At the end of the feast, Laban did something very deceitful; he switched daughters and gave Jacob Leah instead of Rachel!

Some may read this and think how is that possible? Did Jacob not recognize Leah? Well, we must remember that this is before electricity so it certainly was very dark, and also Genesis 24:65 records a story in which a bride took a veil and covered her face (which certainly could have been the custom of the day). Regardless of why Jacob did not realize he was given Leah instead of Rachel, the principle of reaping what you sow is demonstrated clearly. Here was Jacob, a man who had been blessed because of his deceit now dealing with someone else who tricked him into taking a wife for life which he did not want.

We must be careful of how we treat others. You may think you have gotten away with something but Galatians 6 also teaches that “God will not be mocked”. God will not allow sin to go unpunished and God is aware of all of our sin. However, those who are in Christ can rest in knowing that God’s wrath that was saved for them has already been poured out on Jesus. The Gospel is not a message of God looking the other way as we sow sinfully, it is a story of God taking into account all of our sinfulness and, even in light of God’s knowledge of us, “While we were yet sinners Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). So, let Genesis 29 and Galatians 6 be a stern warning that all of us are in desperate trouble. Sinners will ultimately reap the harvest of their sin in death and eternal torment. Then, let the Gospel be that much sweeter. While we deserved the harvest of our sin, Christ absorbed those consequences for us and offers us eternal life of indescribable joy. What a mighty, majestic, and gracious Savior!