



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of August 7, 2022

Jacob & Laban

This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [Genesis 30:25-43](#)

²⁵ As soon as Rachel had borne Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, "Send me away, that I may go to my own home and country. ²⁶ Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, that I may go, for you know the service that I have given you." ²⁷ But Laban said to him, "If I have found favor in your sight, I have learned by divination that the LORD has blessed me because of you. ²⁸ Name your wages, and I will give it." ²⁹ Jacob said to him, "You yourself know how I have served you, and how your livestock has fared with me. ³⁰ For you had little before I came, and it has increased abundantly, and the LORD has blessed you wherever I turned. But now when shall I provide for my own household also?"

- **Why does Jacob want to leave, and why does Laban want him to stay? (25-30)**
- **After Joseph was born to Rachel, and Jacob's second seven-year commitment of service to Laban ended, Jacob tells Laban that he intends to return to his homeland in Canaan. Jacob points out to Laban that he has faithfully served him: Laban has far more abundance than before Jacob took charge of the flocks. What might each man fear?**

³¹ He said, "What shall I give you?" Jacob said, "You shall not give me anything. If you will do this for me, I will again pasture your flock and keep it: ³² let me pass through all your flock today, removing from it every speckled and spotted sheep and every black lamb, and the spotted and speckled among the goats, and they shall be my wages. ³³ So my honesty will answer for me later, when you come to look into my wages with you. Every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats and black among the lambs, if found with me, shall be counted stolen."

- **What arrangement does Jacob suggest for wages? (31-33)**

³⁴ Laban said, "Good! Let it be as you have said." ³⁵ But that day Laban removed the male goats that were striped and spotted, and all the female goats that were speckled and spotted, every one that had white on it, and every lamb that was black, and put them in the charge of his sons. ³⁶ And he set a distance of three days' journey between himself and Jacob, and Jacob pastured the rest of Laban's flock.

- **What is Laban's strategy? (34-36)**

- **Jacob and Laban agree that Jacob can take from Laban's flock all the lambs and sheep that are speckled and spotted (imperfect) as his wages. But the night before Jacob was to take these sheep, Laban and his sons took all the spotted sheep and moved them to another location. Jacob was left to pasture the spotless sheep. What might Jacob be feeling as he show up for his first day of shepherding?**

³⁷ Then Jacob took fresh sticks of poplar and almond and plane trees, and peeled white streaks in them, exposing the white of the sticks. ³⁸ He set the sticks that he had peeled in front of the flocks in the troughs, that is, the watering places, where the flocks came to drink. And since they bred when they came to drink, ³⁹ the flocks bred in front of the sticks and so the flocks brought forth striped, speckled, and spotted. ⁴⁰ And Jacob separated the lambs and set the faces of the flocks toward the striped and all the black in the flock of Laban. He put his own droves apart and did not put them with Laban's flock. ⁴¹ Whenever the stronger of the flock were breeding, Jacob would lay the sticks in the troughs before the eyes of the flock, that they might breed among the sticks, ⁴² but for the feebler of the flock he would not lay them there. So the feebler would be Laban's, and the stronger Jacob's. ⁴³ Thus the man increased greatly and had large flocks, female servants and male servants, and camels and donkeys.

- **How does Jacob get back at Laban to increase the strength of his own flocks & standing? (37-43)**
- **Why might this escalate the conflict between Jacob & Laban? Was Jacob justified in his actions?**
- **In response, Jacob has all the sheep feed and breed in front of peeled, spotted sticks. These sheep then had lambs that were spotted and speckled. Jacob kept these spotted sheep separate from the others, nurturing them and growing them, in addition to the spotless sheep. Jacob grew his flock over a period of six years. While this sounds like magic or superstition, Jacob will explain later to Rachel and Leah that the Lord is the one who really grew Jacob's flock ([Genesis 31:5-9](#))**
- **Persevering under injustice and manipulation is hard on a soul. What happens in your heart when you experience deception and maltreatment? Can you share about a time you had to trust Jesus in a similar situation?**
- **The Scripture elsewhere counsels us to "consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted" ([Hebrews 12:3](#)). How does fixing our eyes on Jesus strengthen us to endure?**
- **The Lord is our Judge who brings justice and blessings to pass. blessings Repent and pray together in light of this week's passage.**