

Who Do You Want To Bury: How To Develop Love

[Heb 10:24 NASB] 24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

Introduction:

- Fairy tale marriages/relationships do not always turn out according to plan.
 - Consider the following real to life scenarios:
 - The prince kisses beauty and she still falls asleep.
 - Rapunzel lets down hair and its only golden extensions.
 - She kisses Prince Charming then he turns into a frog.
 - Belle finds out that she really did marry the Beast.
 - Honeymoon turns into the scene on Exorcist - head spinning around and spitting pea soup.
 - She turns into Cruella Devil and he turns into Humpty Dumpty.
- **"and there I buried Leah--" Genesis 49:31**
- We can learn how to have meaningful relationships from the fact that Jacob buried Leah. These lessons can help our relationships in marriage, family, and friends. This is not just for married people who only make up about 48% of Americans, but also single people. The marriage and subsequent love of Jacob and Leah have lessons for us to learn today in all of our relationships.
- **Genesis 29:31 - "Now the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, and He opened her womb, but Rachel was barren."**
- Jacob did DEVELOP A LOVE for Leah through the years (notice his concern for both of them in 31:31 and 32:11), and ultimately, his love for Leah eclipsed his love for Rachel.
- In ch 35, Jacob calls for all the idols to be brought out, and he buried them under the terebinth tree by Shechem. This was probably where he first learned that Rachel had stolen the teraphim from Laban. After this, we never hear about Jacob's great love for Rachel again. More important for us to notice is that just after this, Rachel dies. And upon her death, Jacob buried her where she lay (Genesis 48:7).
- It would have taken only a day's journey—15–20 miles—to bury Rachel in the cave at Machpelah. Certainly, that was nothing compared to the journey Jacob expected his sons to make to bury him there—about 300 miles from Egypt (48:29–30). So, burying Rachel where she lay wasn't a matter of inconvenience as to take her back there. Rather, it was a decision made by Jacob that Leah would be buried at Machpelah. Though Rachel was his preferred wife at first, Leah was God's preferred wife—and Jacob's covenant wife. Notice what Jacob says as he concludes his instructions as to his burial: "There they buried Abraham and his wife Sarah, there they buried Isaac and his wife Rebekah, and there I buried Leah--" (49:31, my emphasis).
- Leah was Jacob's ultimate choice. Leah was the wife whom he laid in the family tomb, with the other patriarchs and matriarchs. Leah was the wife Jacob wished to lay next to after this life had passed.
- It is quite possible that Jacob's love story is the greatest in the Bible. It is not great, however, in the way that it is often told. Rather, it is a great love story because ends in real love, not superficial love: the kind of love that is learned and based on mutual faith and belief in the promises of God.
- We will explore this story and by the power of the Holy Spirit learn how to develop meaningful relationships in our marriages, family, and friends.
- **Interrogative (attitude or feel, know, do):** How did the relationship between Jacob and Leah turn from a loveless marriage to one of the greatest love stories written? What can we learn

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about all our relationships from this powerful story? Can we experience the type of turnaround in our relationships with our family and friends as Jacob and Leah?

I. Anchor Point

- God hates divorce - [Mal 2:16 NASB] 16 "For I hate divorce," says the LORD, the God of Israel, "and him who covers his garment with wrong," says the LORD of hosts. "So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."
- Jesus said - [Mat 19:3-9 NASB] 3 [Some] Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, "Is it lawful [for a man] to divorce his wife for any reason at all?" 4 And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created [them] from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, 5 and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'? 6 "So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate." 7 They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND [her] AWAY?" 8 He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way. 9 "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."
- Paul said - [1Co 7:10-16 NASB] 10 But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband 11 (but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife. 12 But to the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he must not divorce her. 13 And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, she must not send her husband away. 14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy. 15 Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such [cases,] but God has called us to peace. 16 For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?
- 2 NT permissions to divorce. Adultery and Abandonment.
- Sentence - Go back to Matthew 19:9.
- God will work - ONLY when you trust His Word - [Num 11:23 NASB] 23 The LORD said to Moses, "Is the LORD'S power limited? Now you shall see whether My word will come true for you or not."
- God worked on Jacob & Leah.

II. Love Source

- Rachel looked to Jacob and mandrakes.
- Leah worshiped God, kept asking Him for more sons in the hope that maybe Jacob would love her.
- Rachel traded Jacob to Leah (for a night) for some of Leah's mandrakes (a root that was thought to make a barren woman bear children).
- Leah looked to God (look at the naming of the babies)
- Your spouse is a source - NOT the Source.
- 3-D's (demands, disrespect, disagreements)
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 - Demand – request with consequence. Requests are ok. Demands reduce love.
 - Disrespect – anything other than respect. Respect is defined the other party.

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- Disagreements – a difference of opinion where someone loses. If you win, loves loses.
- **5 Love languages (acts of service, words of affirmation, physical touch, quality time, gifts)**
 - Best to love in their language.
 - At minimum love in your language.
 - Learn to receive love from their language.
- God is LOVE - [1Jo 4:16 NASB] 16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.
- God's Love is distributed by faith & Holy Spirit - [Rom 5:5 NASB] 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

III. Never Quit

- Jacob kept going into Leah - even though he did not love her.
 - Leah kept looking to God, even though she gave Jacob sons, when Jacob still did not love her
- set anchor, love source, keep obeying God –
- [1Co 7:10 NASB] 10 But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband.

IV. Forgive Everything

- Leah deceived Jacob
- Jacob loved another woman
- They forgave everything -
- **Ephesians 4:32 - And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.**
- Notice - [Gen 49:31 NASB] 31 "There they buried Abraham and his wife Sarah, there they buried Isaac and his wife Rebekah, **and there I buried Leah**-- (Genesis 49.31, my emphasis).

Conclusion

- Who do you want to bury means, who do you want to develop love for?
- Rachel was buried by the Road, Leah was buried by Jacob
- God doesn't guarantee a result - see [1Co 7:16 NASB] 16 For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?
- Also, [Rom 12:18 NASB] 18 **If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.**