

Sermon Title: Getting the Most Out of God's Blessings

Two Major Themes:

1. God's people are frequently casting shadows over God's blessings

Competition and strife between Leah and Rachel

- Leah: Hope for love, attachment, and honor (29:32, 33, 34; 30:20)
- Rachel: Envy (30:1) Superstition, prayer-less scheming (30:14)
- Jacob: Prayer-less passivity (30:2; cf. 25:21; 29:1-12)

Quote: If we do not give thanks daily for the Christian fellowship in which we have been placed, even when there is no great experience, no discoverable riches, but much weakness, small faith, and difficulty; if on the contrary, we only keep complaining to God that everything is so paltry and petty, so far from what we expected, then we hinder God from letting our fellowship grow according to the measure and riches which are there for us all in Jesus Christ. (Bonhoeffer, Life Together, p. 29)

Philippians 4:6-7

2. God is abundantly patient, compassionate, gracious, merciful and good with us

- Our human scheming makes God's patience stand out even more (30:3, 9, 14-18)
- Though our human scheming justifies punishment, God shows compassion (29:31; 30:22-23)
- God builds and advances his kingdom through the "despised one."

Isaiah 53:4-6

Lessons:

- God's way is best
- Men guard their homes chiefly by prayer
- Praise and gratitude bring peace
- Nothing but God can satisfy you

