



GENESIS

Grace from the Beginning

15/16 September 2018

Vol. 40, No. 36

When God Overrides Our Choices

Genesis 29:1-30

English Services

(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)

Prelude
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Worship through Fellowship
Testimony
Scripture Reading
Pastoral Prayer
Worship in the Word
Pastor Larry Pabiona
Response Song
Worship in Giving
Benediction

Filipino Service

(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda
Tawag sa Pagsamba
Pagsamba sa Pag-aawitan
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita
Patotoo
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos
Panalanging Pastoral
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos
Pastor Sam Rendal
Tugon na Awit
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay
Bendisyon

*See inset inside for the **Traditional Service (Sat., 6 p.m.)** program.*



When God Overrides Our Choices

Today's Message (15/16 September 2018) /
Genesis 29:1-30

GOD CAN USE
EVEN HUMAN
DECEPTION TO
FULFILL HIS
PROMISES FOR
THE DISTANT
FUTURE.

When life knocks you off your feet, you can look yourself as a victim, or as a student. Which one are you?

In our passage, Jacob reaps what he has sown over a long time. He had been getting away with deception for so long, but finally gets his due. Nobody really gets away with it, particularly if you are genuinely a child of God (*Hebrews 12:5-13*). A loving Father will always bring you back home.

See how God overrides Jacob's choices in a story where God is ominously "absent":

1. GOD GUIDES THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN YOUR LIFE TO FULFILL HIS WILL.

- Jacob encounters Laban's shepherds (*vv. 1-8*)
- Jacob meets Rachel and her family (*vv. 9-14a*)

2. "MANY ARE THE PLANS IN A MAN'S HEART, BUT IT IS THE LORD'S PURPOSE THAT PREVAILS" (*PROVERBS 19:21*).

- Jacob works for Rachel seven years (*vv. 14b-22*).
- In order to understand what should have been the right thing to do, it is instructive to compare how Jacob's father found his wife (cf. the story of Isaac and Rebekah).
- When I live my life without ever seeking God's guidance, why should I be surprised when I end up without God's blessing? Proverbs 16:9 says, "In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps."

Traditional Service

(Saturday, 6:00 p.m.)

Prelude

Call to Worship

Worship through Praise

Anthem

Worship through Fellowship

Testimony

Scripture Reading

Preparatory Hymn

Worship in the Word

Pastor Larry Pabiona

Worship through Giving

Doxology

Response Hymn

Benediction



When God Overrides Our Choices

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3. GOD CAN USE EVEN EVIL MEN OR HEARTBREAKING SITUATIONS IN YOUR LIFE TO ADVANCE HIS PURPOSES.

- Laban deviously gives Leah to Jacob instead, and forces Jacob to work another seven years (*vv. 23-30*).
- Jacob has been sowing the seeds of deceit a long time. And reaping day has come. One of the most famous quotations on divine justice is attributed to H. W. Longfellow:

*Though the mills of God grind slowly,
Yet they grind exceeding small;
Though with patience He stands waiting,
With exactness grinds He all.*

- The future Father of the nation of Israel was indeed being ground with exactness by a God who never makes mistakes. But it was all out of love. If God hated Jacob, He could have just thrown him away and started over. Aren't you glad that is **not** how God deals with Jacob, and us today?

FINAL THOUGHTS

God fulfills His promise of offspring for Jacob by guiding him to the right place. He divinely permits Jacob's marriage to Leah despite Jacob's preference for Rachel, because the Messiah would come from Leah. God can use even human deception to fulfill His promises for the distant future!

We are often discouraged by the deceit we experience or see in this world. But our sovereign God will fulfill His promises despite our personal tragedies, including those of our own making ■

UPDATE ON BABY NATHANIEL GEANGA

Thank you for supporting Pastor Eugene's baby with your selfless giving. The doctors say they want to grow baby Nathaniel to at least 4 pounds or more to safely discharge Nathaniel from the ICU, so he may stay up to a month more. With your prayers and the support you have given, we know that God will make all of this work out for His glory and our collective good. Again, only as God touches your heart, you may write on the envelope or at the back of your check, "premature baby" and we will deposit it to the funds we are raising for our pastor's son. May God bless both the gift and the giver!

ANNOUNCEMENT: SLIGHT CHANGE IN THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

You will notice a slight change today in our Sunday Worship Service's order of segments. We are making this change for two reasons. For one, we have discovered that a song intentionally aligned with the sermon enhances our recall and response to the Word of God. Another reason is to save time by transferring one of the songs we normally sing at the

beginning of the Worship Service, to the end. We will then sing it simultaneously with the Offering. This gives the preacher a little extra time so that he doesn't talk too fast (that's me). Please bear with us and pardon us if this slight change causes you any inconvenience.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING THE VICTIMS OF TYPHOON KARDING LAST MONTH

We thank all those who responded when I appealed online last August 13, 2018 via Facebook, on behalf of our brethren from Marikina who were forced out of their homes by flooding from Typhoon Karding, and evacuated to Marikina Sports Center. Our hardworking Administrator, Aleks Tan made sure the relief goods you brought (or money you sent) reached the flood victims by working with agencies who specialize in such relief operations. But as I am writing this, a supertyphoon is threatening the country again! I pray that by the time you read this, it will have passed through the Philippines without creating another major calamity ■

Ablaze Devotional

God sent Moses to carry the message of deliverance for the Israelites in Egypt. He commanded Moses to confront Pharaoh a number of times. "Let My people go, so that they may worship Me."

In this story, we see two powers at play. On one side is Pharaoh, whose power is expressed through slavery and hard labor. On the other side is Yahweh, whose desire is to liberate people from bondage so that they can freely worship.

The victory over sin and death that Christ won for us is the result of God confronting injustice. We have been set free so we can proclaim God's justice and mercy to the world. Christ's redemption does not just end with the promise of heaven. He invites us to ask for God's kingdom and will to be present here on earth.

We believe in God's sovereignty, as we also make an appeal for His will to be done. As we trust in His wisdom, we also ask for strength as we confront the powers that oppose His will.

As you read the news today, look for the Pharaoh that rules the land—around us, among us, and within us. Ask God for wisdom in how we as a church can confront his influence. Even so, let us reflect in the saving power of God in Christ Jesus that unites us with Him and with one another ■

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning, confront Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me.'"

—Exodus 9:13

GCF PRAYER GATHERINGS AT THE CHAPEL:

The GCF Hour of Prayer
Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.

Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

Ministry Opportunities + Other Announcements



2018 CHURCH LEADERS ELECTIONS

Nomination Period: September 3-28, 2018

Election Days: December 8 and 9, 2018

Nomination forms are available at the Ministry Information Booth. For more information, please refer to the flyer inserted in this bulletin.



OIKOS TRAINING FOR ALL

Learn to reach out to your own community

Sept. 16 (Today), 12-2:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Those interested to participate may register at the Ministry Information Booth, or by texting Angel at 0932 371 3457.



MEN: OVERCOMING AND WINNING

GCF Men's Ministry's Conference

October 6-7 (Sat-Sun) at CCT Tagaytay

Open to men aged 21 and above. Fee: PhP 1,000
Please contact 0917 532 7740 for more details.



I STILL DO

GCF Ortigas Couples' Retreat 2018

November 3-4 (Sat-Sun) at CCT Tagaytay

Fee: PhP 2,000 per couple | Limited slots only.

Text 0917 532 7725 to register, then pay to confirm.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

September 2018

	September Budget	Received, Sept. 1-11
General	7,901,145	9,497,769
Missions	927,000	149,645

	Jan. to Sept. Budget	Received, Jan.-Sept.
General	78,316,916	66,064,730
Missions	8,343,000	7,302,721

Flower Ministry

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to our God by the Basilad family and the Messiah College.

Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.



Connecting with the Tai Yuan

by Wetfoot Connect Team

Wetfoot is the cross-cultural sending arm of GCF. It's taken from the idiom "getting your feet wet." It means taking an initial step. Or trying out something for the first time. Wetfoot is an avenue for the church, individually and corporately, to discover our purpose and meaning as we respond to our own calling in God's mission. As Christians we are all called to take part.

This year, the Wetfoot team is composed of seven people from the Connect ministry. They will be going to Chiang Rai, Thailand. They will minister to the Tai Yuan people group, where there are less than 1% Christians and 97% of the people practice folk Buddhism. They will also minister to the Akha, Hmong, and Lisu tribes. The vision of the long termers there is to see the unreached and unengaged Tai Yuan come to Christ and the Tai Yuan Church, in obedience to God's commission, become a gateway people to all Tai speaking peoples and beyond.

This cross-cultural trip will be a fantastic opportunity for the Connect Wetfoot team to hear the stories of what our Father is doing in North Thailand, serve, ask questions, and be challenged in many different ways.

Thailand is still in need of many missionaries to fill in various roles. Please continue to lift the Connect Wetfoot team and share about this opportunity with others ■

ON THE COVER: *And when all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would roll the stone from the mouth of the well and water the sheep.—Gen. 29:3 (Photo from pixabay.com).* Next to dogs, sheep have been the oldest animal to be domesticated by men. In the Bible, sheep are prominently featured both literally and symbolically. God's children have been alluded to be like sheep, and Jesus Himself is called "the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."

Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

New Growth Group (Mixed Group)

Topic: Counting the Real Cost of Being A Disciple

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Rm. B124 (Growth Group Center)

Overcomers Support Group

for any kind of addiction

Starting this September

Thursdays, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

8 a.m.: Ages 1-3, B415; Ages 4-5, B410;

Age 6, B414; Age 7, B403; Age 8, B413,

Ages 9-10, B411; Ages 11-12, B409;

Transition Age 13, B406

10:30 a.m.: Ages 1-2, B412; Age 3, B415;

Age 4, B408; Age 5, B410; Age 6A, B402;

Age 6B, B403; Age 7, B401; Age 8, B413;

Age 9, B411; Age 10, B414; Age 11, B409;

Age 12, B405; Transition Age 13, B406

3 p.m.: Ages 1-5, B415; Ages 6-9, B402;

Ages 10-12, B403

5:30 p.m.: Ages 1-5, B415; Age 6, B402;

Ages 7-9, B401; Ages 10-12, B403;

Transition Age 13, B404

Nursery: 2nd flr. for nursing moms and babies aged one week to 11 months old

Yayas: 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., B404

Sunday School Parents' Class:

9:30 a.m., B406

If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form inside this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag or submit it to the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at 0917 532 7740.

3Q DMG LEADERS' ASSEMBLY

Crash-Course on "How to Lead 40-Minute Bible Studies" with Ave and Dith Gaspar

September 29 (Sat), 3-5 p.m., Fellowship Hall



Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

Tel. Nos. 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80, 635 0082 to 83 | Fax No. 632 1357

Mobile No. 0920 961 2964, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

E-mail: email@gcf.org.ph • Website: www.gcf.org.ph

How may we SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- I am a first-time guest.
- I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- I want to join a Growth Group.**
(Specify age group: _____)
(Specify group composition: _____)
- I want to start a Growth Group.
- I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: _____

Age: ____ Landline no.: _____

Mobile no.: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Year of membership: _____

Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): _____

Today is 15/16 September 2018, and I attended the 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. (Sat) (encircle the time).

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.

God's Way to Heaven

THE GOSPEL

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God is holy and righteous: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory" (*Isaiah 6:3*). **He requires holiness of us as well:** "Be holy, for I am holy" (*1 Peter 1:16*).

THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

Man is sinful: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (*Romans 3:23*).
Sin demands a penalty: "For the wages of sin is death" (*Romans 6:23*).

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

Christ is the expression of God's love for us: "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (*Romans 5:8*). **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (*1 Peter 3:18*). **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them" (*2 Corinthians 5:18*).

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (*Romans 10:9*).

PRAYER: *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.*

Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.