



GENESIS

Grace from the Beginning

29/30 September 2018

Vol. 40, No. 38

Jacob's Heathen Agenda

Genesis 30:25-34

English Services

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

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

Filipino Service

(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda
 Tawag sa Pagsamba
 Pagsamba sa Pag-aawitan
 Pagkilala sa mga Bisita
 Patotoo at Video
 Presentation
 Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos
 Panalanging Pastoral
 Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos
Pastor Dags Miguel
 Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay
 Tugon na Awit
 Bendisyon

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



Jacob's Heathen Agenda

Today's Message (29/30 September 2018) /
Genesis 30:25-34

IN THE
UNFOLDING
OF GOD'S
SOVEREIGN
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After fourteen years, Jacob had eleven sons. The only thing he doesn't have is wealth. Laban made a killing all those years, but not Jacob. He has a large family now, and no means to support them. So he wants to return home, but was convinced to stay by Laban, who found him not just a source of cheap labor, but of God's favor (v. 27).

You may be working for a Laban. You might be tempted to fight fire with fire, give tit for tat. You, or people you love might be working in difficult situations (i.e. as OFWs or in civil service). Or you could be tempted to be Laban. This story tells us that God's children are never forsaken by God, that even though they are under His discipline they are never outside His love. And that He loves them so much even unbelievers are blessed by their presence.

In the unfolding of God's sovereign plan, He makes all things work out for the good of believers, no matter how badly they are treated or how unworthy they are. This is clearly demonstrated by how God favors Jacob in the midst of continuous deception by Laban:

1. VERSES 25-31: JACOB WAS CONVINCED TO STAY BY LABAN.

- Jacob wanted to go home immediately, but even Laban grudgingly acknowledged that God had blessed him greatly through Jacob.

Some of us might be tempted to walk out of painful situations, but in our seeking God's timing, we must acknowledge that our timeline is not always God's.

- God's people are meant by God to be blessings wherever they are, whatever they do (*Matthew 5:13-16*).

Traditional Service

(Saturday, 6:00 p.m.)

Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Worship through Fellowship
Testimony and Video
Presentation
Scripture Reading
Preparatory Hymn
Pastoral Prayer
Worship in the Word
Pastor Larry Pabiona
Worship through Giving
Response Hymn
Doxology
Benediction



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2. VERSES 32-34: JACOB MAKES A PROPOSAL TO LABAN ABOUT HIS WAGES.

- Jacob's offer seems sincere, even if he would later resort to superstition. There's a strong possibility: God was using this experience to teach Jacob faith.

"It was an act of pure faith on his part. He had put himself entirely at God's mercy. It would be up to the Lord to indicate, by a very unlikely set of circumstances, whether Jacob should prosper personally or not."—Dr. Henry Morris

- As God's people trust Him, they should use every opportunity to show and practice good faith with others.

3. VERSES 35-36: LABAN DECEIVES JACOB IN THE ARRANGEMENT.

- It is a given that God's people are often taken advantage of by unbelievers (*Jeremiah 17:9*). How we handle this reveals the depth of our spirituality.
- You can give way to despair or even vengeance, or you can thrive as you trust in the One who sees everything and favors you far more than He favors the one abusing you. Unless you sincerely believe this, you face a very miserable life.

4. VERSES 37-43: GOD GREATLY BLESSED JACOB IN THE ENTIRE ARRANGEMENT.

- Like we often are, Jacob is a strange mixture of superstition, science, and selfishness. His striped bark-method resembles heathen superstitions from other cultures. Despite that, God eventually blessed Jacob in His perfect time. While Jacob may have been wrong about his heathen methods, he realized it was God who made it work (*Genesis 31:7-12*).
- Few things are harder than waiting upon God. But there is nothing more worth it (*Isaiah 40:31*). Instead of Jacob losing again, God used the whole lopsided agreement to finally prosper the penniless Jacob! Because of God, not everything that starts bad for us is always ultimately bad for us.

FINAL THOUGHTS

After fourteen years of God's discipline, God was still merciful to his own, and would not let Jacob be continually taken advantage of. Sometimes, evil seems to get away with it too long, and we are tempted to despair. Reflecting upon, then realizing, the reality, faithfulness, and justice of God can give you strength for similar situations. Those situations can be in your life, or part of the society you live in.

May you trust in God's faithfulness, that whatever your situation in life, God will make things work out for your good, in His perfect time ■

ARE WE GOING TO LOSE THIS GENERATION?

We could lose this generation, and the next if we parents, grandparents, and guardians don't act now. We may become like the Israelites—the chosen race whose younger generations did not know anything about God to the point of rejecting Him.

As we mark Children's Day, let's understand our crucial role—the passing of our faith to our children. Ed Young of Kid CEO says parenting is like a relay race, and if we want to succeed, we must pass on to our children “the essentials they need to live a life of faith.” But how can we pass something that we do not have?

We can make sure that our children succeed in getting the baton of faith from us *if we pass it faithfully*. Judges 2:7-8 and Judges 2:10 teach, “The people **served the Lord** throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who **outlived him** and who **had seen all the great things the Lord had done for Israel**. Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of a hundred and ten...After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, **another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what He had done for Israel.**”

Our children run the race every day and battle all kinds of pressures around them and meet all kinds of people on the track. It is hard for them to run without seeing their parent/s ahead of them, cheering them on and holding up the torch of faith for them to see their true Way instead of being blinded by the world's teachings.

So how do we pass the baton? It's through character formation in our day-

to-day encounters with them. Every conversation can provide an opportunity to teach our children about God. Kurt Bruner, of Focus on the Family believes that “We must become intentional about teaching our children...It is not a matter of when we will have the time, but rather a question of if we will take the time to make a plan.”

In passing the baton of faith, says Ed Young, “There are no time-outs. Everything we do, every moment, teaches our children something about life, whether we are in their presence or not...You pass the baton of faith moment by moment...just as in a relay race, the baton is not taught, it is caught.”

We, as a church, are here for you, every parent and every child. We will journey with you. That's what family is all about—walking and praying for you and with you and your children. We provide avenues where you can be equipped in relating well with your children and discipling them, such as our #ParentsTalk and Parent as a Discippler series. To paraphrase a famous song,

*Oh may our children who come
behind us find us faithful
May the fire of our devotion light
their way
May the footprints that we leave
Lead our children to believe
And the lives we live inspire them to
obey*

We invite you to visit us at the lobby, as well as the Prayer Stations that we have put up, and see how you can pray for our children ■

Ablaze Devotional

“But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.”

—Mark 2:10 (NIV)

The recurring theme of the outward movement of Jesus’ ministry is reflected throughout Mark’s narrative. Going from town to town, He proclaimed the good news of the reign of God. In contrast, with the understanding that having the Jerusalem temple signifies God’s presence, the lives of the Palestinian Jews that time revolved around the rules and traditions imposed by the temple leaders. Being a temple-state society, only priests and scribes are considered God’s representatives to the people.

In the healing of the paralytic, we see how the scribes reacted to Jesus’ pronouncement on the paralytic’s disease. They felt uneasy. Only the priests could declare forgiveness. If the paralytic sought forgiveness, his friends should have taken him to the temple, not to a wandering rabbi.

Jesus’ life and ministry reached out to the poor and needy. In this narrative we see that with His coming, God’s presence is now manifested, not by a temple, but a human person: the Son of Man.

The ‘son of man’ in Mark’s telling, echoes Daniel 7 where “someone like a son of man” (literally, ‘human one’) comes as a representative of God’s true people. He is opposed by forces of evil, but God absolves, and rescues Him, and gives Him authority. Being the Son of Man, Jesus exercises His authority to heal and forgive.

This short narrative gives us a glimpse of Jesus’ passion. The Human One is opposed by evil and is rescued by God. He triumphed over the evil that oppressed humanity, and offered forgiveness to heal and liberate those who are in need ■

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



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 visit the booth at the lobby, or contact **0917 532 7740** to register/for more details.



LOVE WINS

A forum on LGBT issues by SHE Ministry

October 20 (Sat), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. here at GCF
Everyone is welcome to attend.
Please contact **0917 962 4246** to register.



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.



CHANCEL CHOIR RECRUITMENT

There is joy in serving Jesus!

The GCF Chancel Choir invites church members to consider serving the Lord through singing.
Rehearsal schedule: 3 p.m. (Sat), 2 p.m. (Sun)
Please contact **0915 601 1211** if you’re interested.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

September 2018

	September Budget	Received, Sept. 1-27
General	7,901,145	12,377,575
Missions	927,000	420,650
	Jan. to Sept. Budget	Received, Jan.-Sept.
General	78,316,916	68,944,536
Missions	8,343,000	7,573,726

Flower Ministry

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to our God by the Basildad family, the Messiah College and an anonymous donor.

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



Step-by-step: A Parent and Child Journey

by Farrah Lyra Q. de Ala

I praise God for giving me the opportunity to hear His instructions through the “#ParentsTalk” and “Parent as Discipler” sessions. It has always been my heart’s desire to impress to my children God’s words, but I did not know where and how to start.

In one of the Parent as a Discipler sessions, the speaker reminded us parents that we were mandated to teach and lead our children to be God’s disciples. Indeed, it is my responsibility to lead my children to God and remind them of God’s instruction “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

Putting into practice what I have learned, I take every opportunity to share God in my daily activities and interactions with my children. For instance, in one of our family vacations where we visited a night safari zoo, my son Lennon was so amazed at how the zoo was built. I shared to my son that God created the animals, and that God helped the people build the zoo and transport the animals from different places.

In my journey to be an intentional parent, I seek God’s guidance on the things I need to teach and how to teach my children. God revealed to me that to be an effective teacher to my children, I need to practice what I teach and I need to model everything my children needs to learn. For example, if I want to teach patience, compassion, and kindness, I need to model the same to them and to the people around us ■

ON THE COVER: “Let me go through all your flocks today and remove from them every speckled or spotted sheep, every dark-colored lamb and every spotted or speckled goat. They will be my wages.”—Gen. 30:32. (Photo from pixabay.com — a herd of goats in Nubra Valley, India).

Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

Growth Group Express (Mixed)

Topic: Counting the Real Cost of Being A Disciple

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

Rm. B124 (Growth Group Center)

Best Together in Christ

Group for Couples

Starting on September 30 (Sun)

9:30-11:00 a.m., at Rm. B508

High School and College Y-Groups

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

and 4:40-5:30 p.m.

at 6/F Youth Center

Life in Technicolor Support Group

for cancer patients and survivors

Every 3rd Sunday of the month

12:00-3:00 p.m. at the Seniors’ Room

Overcomers Support Group

for those under any kind of addiction

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

Sports GGs (Three Groups)

for Boys aged 11 to 18

Saturdays, 12:00-3:00 p.m.

at GCF Multipurpose Gym (6/F)

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.

GGEX Extreme

for adults without a Growth Group

November 25 (Sun), 12-3 p.m., Fellowship Hall | Limited only to the first 200 registrants. Sign-up now at the GG Center for your free study guide and lunch!



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 **29/30 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.