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GOD'S FAVORED ONES

In Genesis chapters 29 and 30 we see the story of Jacob receiving his two wives from the former homeland of his mother, Rebekah.

Jacob met Rachel at a well and went with her to the estate of her father Laban. (Jacob's uncle) Rachel was beautiful, and he fell deeply in love with her and asked for her hand in marriage. Laban agreed upon the condition that Jacob would serve him and tend his flocks for seven years. Jacob eagerly agreed and at the end of working for him for seven years Laban prepared a wedding feast. In the evening Laban took his daughter Leah and gave her to Jacob instead of Rachel.

Upon waking in the morning Jacob was surprised and upset to find he had wedded Leah, the older sister who wasn't beautiful like Rachel. He felt betrayed. He cared nothing at all for Leah.

Laban then gave Jacob Rachel after he agreed to fulfill his week with Leah and work for him an additional seven years. After fourteen years of service to Laban, Jacob agreed to stay on with Laban a few more years with his wages being in cattle.

Jacob's beloved Rachel was barren, but his despised wife, Leah, was blessed with God's favor and bore him four sons. Between Leah and their two handmaids, Jacob received ten sons before Rachel finally gave birth to Joseph.

Jacob left Laban and returned to Canaan with his eleven sons, wives, and large flocks of cattle. (Cows, sheep, goats, camels.)

What can we learn from the saga of Leah and Rachel? Jacob did not choose Leah, but God chose her and blessed her. She never did receive Jacob's favor like Rachel did.

You may be like Leah, not popular in the eyes of the world, but you are favored by God. Others may be more popular, but God says of YOU in Jeremiah 1:5, ***"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Before you were born I sanctified you [set you apart for myself]."*** God continued on in Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV, ***"For I know the thoughts I think toward YOU... to give you a [blessed] future and a [blessed] hope [expectancy]."***

Just know that whether you have favor or disfavor from people, or any individual, you are always a favorite in the eyes of God. That is the one thing that really matters because HE loves you!!