

STUDY TWENTY SEVEN

SERVING WHOLEHEARTEDLY

Genesis 30:25—31:55

Introduction

Jacob now has a large family. He feels it is time to go back home to Canaan. But Laban wants him to stay. Jacob and Laban are both eager to get rich at the expense of the other. Both are masters of deception. But behind all the trickery God is in control.

Questions For Discussion

1.a) After 14 years of service what material riches had Jacob earned from Laban (30:25-26)?

b) Do we see any resentment in Jacob's attitude?

c) What should be our attitude if our employer is unkind? (See Eph. 6:7-8)

2.a) How did Laban say that he had learned that the Lord had blessed him because of Jacob (30:27)?

b) Is it all right to consult mediums?

3.a) How long did Jacob stay in Haran (31:38)?

b) How long was he planning to stay when he left his family in Beersheba? (See Gen. 27:42-45)

4.a) What had Laban been trying to do to Jacob?

b) Why did the Lord allow this to happen?

c) Does God allow bad things to happen to good people?

5. How did Jacob get rich (31:4-9)? (Note: the placing of peeled branches in watering troughs was thought to make animals fertile.)

6.a) What had Rachel stolen from her father's house (31:19)?

b) From whom had Rachel learned deception (31:35)?

c) Who, in your opinion, was the greater deceiver?

7.a) Was it necessary for Jacob to deceive Laban (31:20)?

b) Is it ever all right to deceive anyone, for instance if the life of a family member is threatened?

8. How far had Jacob come in his journey of faith?

For Further Thought And Action

How can you serve your employer, mother-in-law, or husband more wholeheartedly?

Memory Verse

Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men.

Ephesians 6:7