

Riding the roller coaster to faith

Genesis 29-30

From sinful human viewpoint, God seems to have remained hidden.

Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God. Your sins have hidden His face from you. Isaiah 59:2

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers so they cannot see the light of the Gospel...2 Corinthians 4:4

We walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

1. From singleness to Genesis 29:16-30:24

You didn't marry the wrong person, but you are having the wrong

...all things work together for good. Romans 8:28

Encourage one another and each other. 1 Thessalonians 5:11

I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in Him... that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him... Philippians 3:8-11

2. From sex to Genesis 30:14-17

Deuteronomy 18:9-13, Isaiah 8:19.

3. From superstition to God's Genesis 30:25-43

The lust for money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some folks, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. 1 Timothy 6:10

Earn all you can. Save all you can. Give all you can. John Wesley

Today's song selection

Holy, holy, holy | Love is surrender | Stand and bless the Lord | Little by little (item) | I've got a mansion | The illusive dream | Reach out to Jesus | He's everything to me

Thought and discussion starters

1. When did you first ride a roller coaster; and what are your memories of that experience? Would you get on a modern roller coaster, today?
2. Read Genesis 29:31-34. Find words in each verse that describe the relationship between Jacob and his first wife, Leah.
3. Why do you think their relationship was in this state, and what helpful advice would you offer to each of them?
4. Read Genesis 30:8. How would you rate the relationship between the sisters, Leah and Rachel. Why do you think it got to this point? What advice would you give to these sisters?
5. Rachel (in Genesis 30:6) attributed her servant's pregnancy as God's approval. What is another way to look at it?
6. Why do you think that people without God's wisdom turn to superstition to find answers? What advice would you give them?
7. Read 1 Timothy 6:10. What is (a) not the problem; (b) the problem? How can we minimise our problems?

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