

JOURNALS OF JESUS DAILY DEVOTIONS

WOMEN
OF WISDOM
Edition

DAILY
RACHEL

*True Heart
Even In Tragedy*

Psalm 27:10
"Though my father
and mother forsake
me,
the LORD will
receive me."

In the crossfire
of parental
miscalculations.
What do you
do when the
misfortune of
parental error-of-
judgment seems
to undermine
your destiny.

The bitter-sweet
encounter.

Genesis 29:11
"Then Jacob kissed
Rachel and began
to weep."
ALONE.

His first
impressions
count, what an
intro this must
have been to
a potential
husband!

And yet, there
are moments
when tears are
the only
language that
can express
the myriad
of emotions,
confusion, hopes,
desires, prayers,
wishes, past,
present and
future one feels.

Rachel shouldn't
have been
meeting her
destiny partner
in this manner.

Jacob was
practically a
prince.

A grandson
of probably the
richest man alive
at that time.

A bearer of the
eternal promise
of GOD to HIS
Covenant friend.

Abraham lived
to be 175 years
old.

It is almost
certain that he
was still alive
when Jacob was
sent to find a
wife.

Why was Jacob
sent alone?
With no servant
and no
provision.

We know
Abraham would
have furiously
disapproved
of this clumsy
arrangement.

Right there
Rachel meets a
vulnerable and
compromised yet
vibrant wife.

Inexperienced,
unwise, but fresh
from an
encounter with
GOD at Bethel.

The scandals
of his recent past
withstanding.

GOD called
Abraham out of
the idolatrous Ur
of the Chaldeans.

He knew well
and was
determined that
neither him nor
his descendants
should ever go
back there.

He made his
servant Eleazar
vow never to
take Isaac back
there.

Genesis 24:6-8
"Make Sure That
You DO NOT
Take My Son Back
There," Abraham
said. "The LORD,
the God of heaven,
WHO BROUGHT ME
OUT OF MY FATHER'S
HOUSEHOLD AND MY
NATIVE LAND AND
WHO SPOKE TO
ME AND PROMISED
ME ON OATH,
saying, 'To your
offspring I
will give this
land' - HE will
send HIS angel
before you so that
you can get a wife
for my son from
there."

If the woman is
unwilling to come
back with you,
then you will be
released from this
OATH of mine.
Only DO NOT
Take My Son Back
There."

Abraham was
emphatic that
trip should never
happen.

Isaac's
miscalculation
was to send an
inexperienced
Jacob empty-
handed to an
unscrupulous
idolatrous uncle
with an
instruction to
get a wife.

A grossly un-
Abrahamic
behavior.

Consequently
Rachel would
have to wait
seven extra years
before she could
be married.

A gullible and
vulnerable Jacob
committed
himself to work
seven years for
Rachel.

While this
sounds noble,
it was totally
unnecessary.

Isaac did not
have to work
seven years to
get Rebekah who
is Jacob's
mother and
Laban's own
sister from the
same family.

Furthermore,
Laban was there
when Rebekah
was betrothed,
in fact he was the
one speaking
blessings over
his sister.

Genesis 24:50-51
"Laban and
Bethuel answered,
"This is from
The LORD; we
can say nothing to
you one way or the
other. Here is
Rebekah; Take Her
and Go, and let her
become the wife of
your master's son,
as The LORD Has
Directed."

Genesis 24:60
"And they blessed
Rebekah and said
to her,
"Our sister, may
you increase
to thousands upon
thousands;
may your offspring
possess
the cities of their
enemies."

Surely Laban
was not new
to these
arrangements.

When seven
years of waiting
for her lover in
all chastity were
completed,
on her wedding
night, Rachel's
groom was
tricked into
sleeping with
Leah, her very
own sister.

No explanation
is given as to
how this affected
Rachel, but it
was a hard blow
nonetheless.

Seven years of
waiting and
work were
rubbed
in one night.

Jacob had kept
himself well,
meanwhile his
twin Esau was
well into wife
number three,
while Jacob
remained
sexually pure.

His virgin purity
gift kept for
Rachel was
stolen.

What was to be
the best night
of their lives was
snatched in the
guise of cultural
protocols.

Genesis 29:26-27
"Laban replied,
"It is not our
custom here to
give the younger
daughter in
marriage before
the older one.
Finish this
daughter's bridal
week; then we will
give you the
younger one also,
in return for
another seven
years of work."

If only Isaac had
sent a servant
loaded with
supplies as
Abraham did in
his case and took
the bride away,
rightly so,
Rachel's story
would have been
different.

Isaac, Laban,
the deafening
silence of
Rachel's mother
while all this is
happening,
Leah colluding
with her father to
defraud her own
sister, all the
family
deficiencies with
an eternal
bearing on
Rachel's earth
experience.

But Rachel must
still emerge
victorious in all
of this.

**Beauty &
Barrenness**

All the patriarchs
wives started off
beautiful and
barren.

Sarah, Rebekah
and Rachel was
no exception.

But for Rachel
the insults would
have cut deeper
as they were
from her own
sister who now
jostled for
Jacob's attention.

Genesis 30:14-15
"During wheat
harvest, Reuben
went out into the
fields and found
some mandrake
plants, which he
brought to his
mother Leah.
Rachel said to
Leah, "Please give
me some of your
son's mandrakes."
But she said to her,
"Wasn't it enough
that you took away
my husband? Will
you take my son's
mandrakes too?"
"Very well,"
Rachel said,
"he can sleep with
you tonight in
return for your
son's mandrakes."

**The forgotten
shall be
remembered.**

Genesis 30:22
"Then God
remembered
Rachel; HE
listened to her and
enabled her to
conceive."

Except in hell,
no shame is
permanent.

Rachel's faith
was kindled
for more.

Genesis 30:23-24
"She became
pregnant and gave
birth to a son and
said, "God has
taken away my
disgrace." She
named him Joseph,
and said, "May the
LORD add to me
another son."

Much later
Rachel conceived
again She was
overwhelmed at
child birth and
succumbed
to death.

Genesis 35:18
"As she breathed
her last—for she
was dying—she
named her son
Ben-Oni. But his
father named him
Benjamin."

Stealing her
father's gods and
protecting them
with her inner
things had
got her on the
crossfire of
curses uttered
by her own
husband.

Genesis 31:19
"When Laban had
gone to shear his
sheep, Rachel stole
her father's
household gods."

Unbeknown
to Jacob in anger
against his
unreasonable
father-in-law
he had uttered
a curse that
would trouble
Rachel, his most
beloved wife at
her most
vulnerable
moment.

Genesis 31:32
"But if you find
anyone who has
stolen your gods,
that person shall
not live."
In the presence of
our relatives, see
for yourself
whether there is
anything of yours
here with me; and
if so, take it."

Now Jacob did not
know that Rachel
had stolen the
gods.

**BUT Mercy
Triumphs Over
Judgment.**
It is amazing
to know that
even beyond her
death, heaven
reckons all
Jacob's children
as belonging to
Rachel, not Leah
or any of the
other slave girls.

Her name
and legacy are
preserved by
heaven.

Matthew 23:18
"A voice is heard
in Ramoth,
weeping and great
mourning,
for their children
and refusing to be
comforted,
because they are no
more."

To anyone
struggling with
the death and
loss of a loved
one who seems
to have been
snatched
prematurely,
and a feeling that
their legacy has
been unfairly
lost, God
has the
answer.

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