

SERMON: Hidden Blessings

SERIES: Jacob: Seeking True Blessings

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 29

SPEAKER: Pastor Brady

October 20, 2019

THE GOAL: The primary goal of a small group at Grace is to develop a Christian community where Jesus is experienced through the gospel.

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS: Use these questions to explore how God is at work in our families, communities, workplaces, and church.

1. Where have you seen God at work in your life this week?
2. What temptations have you been facing this week? How is God delivering you?
3. How have you experienced God's grace this week?
4. In what ways are you growing in your love for God?
5. In what ways are you growing in your love for others?
6. Have you started or stopped something this week just because you love Jesus?

REVIEW: Use these questions to better understand and apply the passage/sermon.

Observation: as a group talk through and summarize the passage. Think through Who, What, Where, When, How, Why questions together.

Interpretation: answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about God?
2. What does this passage teach us about us (mankind)?
3. What does this passage teach us about salvation/grace?
4. How does this passage point to Christ?

Application: answer these questions together:

1. How does this passage convict you? Encourage you? Inspire you?
2. What specific truth do you see about God (his grace? love? holiness?) and how would your life be different if you really believed it?
3. By God's grace, what commitments do you need to make this week? Or, what do you need to start obeying/believing?

GO DEEPER: Use these questions to go deeper into the passage, minds, and hearts.

1. Who do you relate to in Genesis 29? Jacob? Laban? Leah? Rachel?
2. Has there ever been a time when you felt like God wasn't with you or that his blessings were "hidden" from you? Have you ever experienced a trial that later you saw as a blessing?
3. Suffering exposes our desires which exposes our character? How do we see this in Jacob's life? In Genesis 29:31-35 how do we see Leah's desire and character changing? How have you seen the truth of this principle in your own life?
4. We might say that in Genesis 29 Jacob settled for a lesser beauty (Rachel) instead of seeking the greater beauty of God. What are ways that you pursue beauty in your life? What are ways that you can let the "lesser beauties" in your life point you to the "greater beauty" of God?
5. God's beauty is hidden in ugliness? In what way was Leah "ugly" but also beautiful? In what way is the cross ugly but also beautiful? Can you think of how something that is "ugly" in your life (past or present) might actually be a beautiful thing that God is using to make you more like Jesus?

Extra: 1) For men's groups – talk about how God uses masculine strength to produce what is beautiful.

2) For women's groups – talk about how God uses feminine beauty to produce what is strong.

Pray: Praise God for his glorious beauty even in your suffering. Confess ways that you have settled for lesser beauties. Ask God to show you how he has made the "ugly" parts of your life beautiful.