

# “LEAH”

**Text:** Genesis 29:21-35  
**Subject:** “The Healing Power Of Sacrificial Praise”

## Introduction

- Fact:** No one who lives on earth can escape pain.  
**Fact:** No one who lives on earth can escape being hurt.  
**Fact:** No one who lives on earth can escape disappointment.  
**Fact:** No one who lives on earth can escape tears of sorrow.  
**Fact:** No one who lives on earth can escape hopes deferred.

### (God Is A Realist:)

“Hopes deferred make the heart sick, but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life”. (Proverbs 13:12)

**Question:** Why must we understand the principle of Leah? (Because)

- ◆ Disappointments can make people cynical.
- ◆ Setbacks can leave people depressed.
- ◆ Rejection can make you overly cautious.
- ◆ Let downs can tempt you to be angry at God.
- ◆ Pain can turn people into pessimists instead of optimists.

### (In Plain Vanilla)

- ◆ We can become fearful of being hurt again by new relationships.
- ◆ We can allow our woundedness to restrict our openness to people.
- ◆ We can lose the joy of living unless we handle “hopes deferred” the biblical way.
- ◆ We can fail to discover what God is ultimately after in us.

**Question:** What is God after in all of us? (One thing)

**Answer:** More than fulfilling our desires, God is after our hearts to be pure worshipers of Him.

### (In Other Words)

- ◆ God wants to satisfy us and fulfill our dreams and desires. (But not before He is first place in our hearts).

### (What Leah Teaches Us About Hopes Deferred)

#### I. Hopes Deferred Come To Everyone (Without exception)

1. Leah, Jacobs first wife, was unattractive to Jacob.
2. She was unwanted and unloved by her husband Jacob.
3. Jacob had served Laban (Leah’s father) for seven years to obtain Rachel for his wife.
4. Rachel was Leah’s younger sister.
5. And, on the wedding night, Laban put Leah in the nuptial tent instead of Rachel.
6. Jacob would marry Rachel a week later, but he had to work another seven years for her.
7. So Jacob had two wives who were sisters and Scripture says that Rachel was loved by Jacob, but Leah was hated.

**Question:** Is there anything worse than being single?

**Answer:** Yes!

**Question:** What is it!

**Answer:** It is being married to someone who doesn’t love you.

**Question:** What’s the good news for Leah’s hopes deferred?

**Answer:** (V. 31) “The Lord saw that Leah was hated”.

### (What’s The Good News?)

#1. The Lord saw that Leah was unloved.

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- #2. The Lord is drawn to those who hurt.  
#3. The Lord reaches the afflicted to comfort them.

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ The Lord saw her pain and “hopes deferred”.
- ◆ The Lord saw her loneliness and “hopes deferred”.
- ◆ The Lord saw her heartache and “hopes deferred”.
- ◆ The Lord knew all about Leah (and He knows all about you).

**Question:** Like Leah, have any of your hopes been deferred?

**Question:** Have any of your dreams been put “on hold”?

**Question:** Have any “unfulfilled expectations” touched your life?

**Question:** Has the accuser of the brethren been whispering to you?

**Question:** Have you been tempted to doubt the love of God and His ultimate plan for you?

**II. Hopes Deferred Are Very Painful**

**Question:** What did the Lord do for Leah?

**Answer:** He gave her a son. (v. 32)

**Question:** What was Leah’s reaction to the birth of Reuben?

**Answer:** She said, “Surely, now, my husband will love me”. (v. 32)

- ◆ Leah’s hope was that Jacob would love her. (Her hope was justified).
- ◆ She had given her husband a first born son.
- ◆ Leah was thinking; “If the Lord could open my womb, surely He could also open Jacob’s heart”.

**Question:** How did Jacob respond?

**Answer:** Still, he didn’t love her.

**Question:** What did Leah do?

**Answer:** She gave birth to a second son, Simeon. (v. 33)

**Question:** Did Jacob love her then?

**Answer:** Still, he didn’t love her.

**Question:** What did Leah do?

**Answer:** (V. 34) She gave birth to a third son, Levi.

**Question:** What was her hope and expectations?

**Answer:** She said, “Now this time my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons”. (v. 34)

**(Yet, Jacob’s Heart Still Did Not Desire Her)**

**Question:** What was Leah learning?

#1. You cannot make another person love you.

#2. The more you pressure someone to accept you, the more likely they are to reject you.

**(But most of all)**

#3. The more you seek fulfillment in attaining a persons love, the more your heart will ache and be in pain. (If they don’t love you)

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ Leah’s problems were worsening.
- ◆ Her jealousies over Rachel were adding to her disappointments. **(Yet All The While)**
- ◆ The Lord was wooing Leah to Himself.
- ◆ The Lord was using her “hopes deferred” for a higher purpose.
- ◆ The Lord was wanting to do something awesome in Leah.

**(What Was It In Verse 35)**

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“And she conceived again, and bare a son, and she said, “This time I will praise the Lord”

- ◆ She names the child Judah, (which means “Praise”)
- ◆ She became aware that while she had not been the object of her husband’s love, she was still loved by God.
- ◆ As the fourth pregnancy drew near to completion, she drew nearer and nearer to God.
- ◆ She shifted her hopes from Jacob to the Lord.

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ As long as Leah was seeking self-fulfillment, she found heartache and pain.
- ◆ But, when she became a worshiper of God, she entered life’s highest fulfillment.

**(She Began To Please The Lord)  
What Was The Result Of Her Decision?**

- #1. Her soul truly began to change.
- #2. When she found fulfillment in God, God began to remove all of her jealousies, insecurities and pain.
- #3. An inner beauty began to grow in Leah, (and she became a woman at rest).

**(What Is The Lesson?)**

- #1. It’s not counseling or a class on success or self-esteem.
- #2. We simply need to discover God’s love for us. **(In Other Words)**

- #1. As we begin to praise God in every situation, internal change takes place.
- #2. As we worship God no matter what hopes are deferred, we are delivered from the things that would destroy us.

**(In Other Words)**

**“Hopes deferred” that satan would use to make our heart sick”**

**(Will Be Reversed) When...**

...We come to the place that Leah did, and just worship God and put His glory above our hopes, desires, wants, feelings and what we think we need to be happy.

**(What A Revelation Here)**

- ◆ Romans 8:28 says, “God causes all things to work together for good to those who what? **“Love God”**.”
- ◆ I can murmur, complain, feel cheated or just love God (like Leah) when hopes are deferred.

**(What’s The Reward?)**

- ◆ If we continue to love God above everything else, nothing we experience can ultimately turn out harmful to us. (Why not?)
- ◆ Because we give the devil no foothold when we praise God in the midst of hopes deferred.

**III. Hopes Deferred Are Changed In Worship**

In Proverbs 13:12 “Hope deferred makes the heart sick”. (True)

**(But The Rest Of The Verse Says)  
“But desire fulfilled is a tree of life”**

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ As our desires are fulfilled, we are fulfilled. **(Which Means:)**
- ◆ The secret of a rewarding and fulfilling life is to commit our desires to God every day.

**(Which Means:)**

- #1. Let the Lord choose your times and places.

- #2. Let the Lord choose your friends and relationships.
- #3. Let the Lord help you in every disappointment to do what Leah did. (What did she do?)

**“This Time I Will Praise The Lord”  
(What Is The Lesson?)**

- #1. That there is no love, or fulfillment in this life apart from God.
- #2. The Lord alone is the tree of life that satisfies all desires.
- #3. It is foolish to seek the love of those who have rejected you.
- #4. All sickness and pain from hopes deferred in your life are healed in the presence of God, (when your desire is for Him above all others).

**(What Happened To Leah?)  
(Jacob On His Deathbed Said In Genesis 49:29-31)**

“I am about to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave. There they buried Abraham and his wife Sarah, and Isaac and his wife Rebekah, and there I buried Leah”.

- ◆ Jacob buried Leah in the ancestral place of honor! **(In Other Words)**
- ◆ God had beautified Leah when Leah praised God.
- ◆ She found fulfillment in God, then God gave her fulfillment in Jacob.
- ◆ When Leah delighted herself in the Lord, something happened and something changed.
  - #1. Inner peace and beauty and security came forth.
  - #2. Leah began to change in the place of God having first place.
  - #3. The negative effects of grief and rejection and hopes deferred were healed.
  - #4. As Leah worshiped God and gave Him first place, love and joy fulfilled her life.
  - #5. Her very soul was restored and made beautiful, and insecurity vanished away.

**(How? Why?)**

- ◆ Because she came to the place of saying, **“This time I will praise the Lord”**

**Practical Life Application:  
(Discover the progressive healing as Leah recognized the hand of God)**

- #1. Child: Reuben (which means:) “See a son that God has given”.
  - ◆ Recognize that all good things come from God!
- #2. Child: Simeon (which means:) “God hears my prayers in affliction”.
  - ◆ Recognize that God is answering your prayers!
- #3. Child: Levi (which means:) “A joining companion.”
  - ◆ Recognize that God has joined you to Himself!
- #4. Child: Judah (which means:) “Praise”
  - ◆ Recognize that God will heal you as you worship (interact) with Him!

**AMEN!**  
Bill Kirk, Pastor