There’s No Place Like Home

(Genesis 33:16-20 KJV)

*So Esau returned that day on his way unto Seir. And Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built him an house, and made booths for his cattle: therefore the name of the place is called Succoth. And Jacob came to Shalem, a city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padanaram; and pitched his tent before the city. And he bought a parcel of a field, where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for an hundred pieces of money. And he erected there an altar, and called it EleloheIsrael.*

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n the previous chapters Jacob resided with Laban. God indeed blessed him and Jacob became wealthy. In fact, Jacob worked for Laban and in result he made Laban rich as well. He did not want Jacob to leave and rest from his labor. He specifically wanted Jacob to stay there and work for the rest of his life! He even found ways to trick Jacob so he would stay in Haran instead of going back home.

It’s hilarious how God allowed Jacob to be tricked by Laban. Remember how Jacob had tricked his brother Esau to take some pottage in exchange for his birthright and trick his blind daddy Isaac for Esau’s blessing? Jacob with much success got Esau to sign on the dotted line and figuratively made himself to feel superior over him.

In fact, if you researched the Hebraic name Jacob; you will discover his name means: Trickster, Conniver, or Manipulator. God sometimes lets his children experience the same bad things that they do to other people. In the story of Jacob he experienced what it felt like to be tricked. Uncle Laban had done an excellent job at that.

In one episode of Jacob life; Laban happened to have just what Jacob wanted: He wanted to take a woman’s hand in marriage named Rachel (Genesis 29:15-20). Instead of giving him Rachel for free, Laban took advantage of the opportunity. He made a deal with Jacob. Does this remind you of the deal that Jacob once made with hungry Esau?

It is as if Laban was saying something like this: “Jacob, you have what I want and I have what you want. I’ll give you Rachel and you give me seven years of hard work.” Laban was able to get Jacob to “sign on the dotted line” and the deal was made!  This again reminds us of the time Jacob forced Esau to sign on the dotted line!

Seven years seemed like nothing to Jacob (Genesis 29:20). He would gladly have “climbed the highest mountain, crossed the hottest desert and sailed the deepest ocean” for her! Oh my God, Sister Rachel was a brick house and Jacob knew she was worth working for to obtain. He would patiently and gladly put in seven years for the girl he loved!

At the end of these seven years Jacob is eighty four years old. The time has come for the wedding (Genesis 29:21-22). Instead of Laban giving him Rachel, Laban gave him popped eyed Leah. Remember during the wedding the bride is veiled! Jacob thought that it was Rachel but he was completely mistaken, and in the morning he discovered it was Leah (Genesis 29:25). Jacob was tricked by his own uncle!

There are many who scheme and connive and plot and deceive as they travel down life’s road. They do this in order to try to benefit and better themselves. Instead of trusting the Lord for His best they try to work things out their way. Often they want what is good such as happiness, security, freedom, a bright future,