


Genesis 31:36-55

Jacob has left his friend and uncle Laban and taken all that belongs to him. They get into a confrontation. Laban accused Jacob of stealing his false idols.

- 36 ¶ And Jacob was wroth, and chode with Laban: and Jacob answered and said to Laban, What *is* my trespass? What *is* my sin, that thou hast so hotly pursued after me?** Jacob is mad and wants to tear Laban apart. Laban's daughter stole the idols and is sitting on them, but Laban doesn't check with his daughter.
- 37 Whereas thou hast searched all my stuff, what hast thou found of all thy household stuff? Set *it* here before my brethren and thy brethren, that they may judge betwixt us both.** Jacob says whatever contraband you found, set it here in front of everyone and let them judge.
- 38 This twenty years *have I been* with thee; thy ewes and thy she goats have not cast their young, and the rams of thy flock have I not eaten.** Laban, for 20 years I've served you honorably and have not stolen anything. If some animals got tore up under my watch, I replaced it with my own money. It has not cost you anything while I worked for you.
- 39 That which was torn *of beasts* I brought not unto thee; I bare the loss of it; of my hand didst thou require it, *whether* stolen by day, or stolen by night.** It didn't matter is something bad happened day or night; I replaced it out of my own pocket.
- 40 Thus I was; in the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night; and my sleep departed from mine eyes.** Anything that happened under my watch, I took care of it.
- 41 Thus have I been twenty years in thy house; I served thee fourteen years for thy two daughters, and six years for thy cattle: and thou hast changed my wages ten times.** Laban was continuously changing the rules of Jacob's employment.
- 42 Except the God of my father, the God of Abraham, and the fear of Isaac, had been with me, surely thou have sent me away now empty. God hath seen mine affliction and the labor of my hands, and rebuked *thee* yesternight.** Laban, if it was left up to you, you'd have sent me away with nothing. You wouldn't have given me anything for my labors. Jacob doesn't claim the truth very often, but he's been steaming and planning to get what he deserves. He still didn't leave it up to God. God has a plan for you. If you trust Him and let Him run your life, things would be much simpler. We need to let God guide our steps.
- 43 ¶ And Laban answered and said unto Jacob, *These* daughters *are* my daughters, and *these* children *are* my children, and *these* cattle *are* my cattle, and all that thou see *is* mine: and what can I do this day unto these my daughters, or unto their children which they have born?** Laban claims everything they see if his. Laban asks what he should do with all his stuff. Really they weren't Laban's anymore. They belonged to Jacob now.
- 44 Now therefore come thou, let us make a covenant, I and thou; and let it be for a witness between me and thee.** Laban says we can't change things, so let's make peace. I don't want to fight you anymore. God has already warned Laban not to mess with Jacob. But Laban wants to do a little boasting.
- 45 And Jacob took a stone, and set it up *for* a pillar.** In those days it was customary to build up some kind of a physical structure that would commemorate that deal.
- 46 And Jacob said unto his brethren, Gather stones; and they took stones, and made an heap: and they did eat there upon the heap.** They built up a structure.
- 47 And Laban called it Jegarsahadutha: but Jacob called it Galeed.** The pagan word Jegarsahaduth, which means a heap of stones for a testimony, is what they built for their covenant. Jacob called it the Hebrew word, Galeed, meaning a heap of promise.
- 48 And Laban said, This heap *is* a witness between me and thee this day. Therefore was the name of it called Galeed;**

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- 49 And Mizpah; for he said, The LORD watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another.** Mizpah means watchtower.
- 50 If thou shalt afflict my daughters, or if thou shalt take *other* wives beside my daughters, no man *is* with us; see, God *is* witness betwixt me and thee.** Laban warns Jacob that if he abuses his daughters he'll have Laban to deal with.
- 51 And Laban said to Jacob, Behold this heap, and behold *this* pillar, which I have cast betwixt me and thee;** They are saying these stones are a promise that we will not hurt each other. As long as these stones stand here we will keep the promise.
- 52 This heap *be* witness, and *this* pillar *be* witness, that I will not pass over this heap to thee, and that thou shalt not pass over this heap and this pillar unto me, for harm.** The pillar of stones is a witness, a borderline that each will not cross the line and do each other harm.
- 53 The God of Abraham, and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge betwixt us. And Jacob swear by the fear of his father Isaac.** Laban calls upon the Gods of Abraham, Nahor, and their father. Jacob swore on the fear of his father Isaac. Laban is pagan, but he likes to use God when it's convenient, when its to their advantage. But they don't believe.
- 54 Then Jacob offered sacrifice upon the mount, and called his brethren to eat bread: and they did eat bread, and tarried all night in the mount.** Jacob gave the sacrifice; Laban eats and goes to bed. Laban doesn't care or believe in God. He just uses God's name when it suits him.
- 55 And early in the morning Laban rose up, and kissed his sons and his daughters, and blessed them: and Laban departed, and returned unto his place.** Laban blessed his sons and daughters with whatever pagan blessing he had, and he left and that is the end of the relationship between Jacob and Laban.