

# THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD

**A Journey Through the  
Old Testament**

Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written for our instruction,  
so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope.

## Genesis 30

25 Now after Rachel had given birth to Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, “Send me on my way so I can return to my homeland.

26 Give me my wives and children, for whom I have served you, and I will go on my way. You know how hard I have worked for you.”

27 But Laban replied, “If I have found favor in your eyes, please stay. I have learned by divination that the LORD has blessed me because of you.”

28 And he added, “Name your wages, and I will pay them.”

## Genesis 30

29 Then Jacob answered, “You know how I have served you and how your livestock has thrived under my care.

30 Indeed, you had very little before my arrival, but now your wealth has increased many times over.

The LORD has blessed you wherever I set foot.

But now, when may I also provide for my own household?”

31 “What can I give you?” Laban asked.



“You do not need to give me anything,” Jacob replied. “If you do this one thing for me, I will keep on shepherding and keeping your flock.

32 Let me go through all your flocks today and remove from them every speckled or spotted sheep, every dark-colored lamb, and every spotted or speckled goat. These will be my wages.

33 So my honesty will testify for me when you come to check on my wages in the future.

If I have any goats that are not speckled or spotted, or any lambs that are not dark-colored, they will be considered stolen.”

## Genesis 30

34 “Agreed,” said Laban. “Let it be as you have said.”

35 That very day Laban removed all the streaked or spotted male goats and every speckled or spotted female goat—every one that had any white on it—and every dark-colored lamb, and he placed them under the care of his sons.

36 Then he put a three-day journey between himself and Jacob, while Jacob was shepherding the rest of Laban’s flocks. <

## Genesis 30

43 Thus Jacob became exceedingly prosperous. He owned large flocks, maidservants and menservants, and camels and donkeys.

## Genesis 31

1 Now Jacob heard that Laban's sons were saying, "Jacob has taken away all that belonged to our father and built all this wealth at our father's expense."

2 And Jacob saw from the countenance of Laban that his attitude toward him had changed.

## Genesis 31

3 Then the LORD said to Jacob, “Go back to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you.”

4 So Jacob sent word and called Rachel and Leah to the field where his flocks were, 5 and he told them, “I can see from your father’s face that his attitude toward me has changed; but the God of my father has been with me.

6 You know that I have served your father with all my strength.



# Genesis 31

7 And although he has cheated me and changed my wages ten times, God has not allowed him to harm me.

8 If he said, 'The speckled will be your wages,' then the whole flock bore speckled offspring.

If he said, 'The streaked will be your wages,' then the whole flock bore streaked offspring.

9 Thus God has taken away your father's livestock and given them to me.<



## Genesis 31

17 So Jacob got up and put his children and his wives on camels, 18 and he drove all his livestock before him, along with all the possessions he had acquired in Paddan-aram, to go to his father Isaac in the land in Canaan.

20 Moreover, Jacob deceived Laban the Aramean by not telling him that he was running away.

21 So he fled with all his possessions, crossed the Euphrates, and headed for the hill country of Gilead.

## Genesis 31

22 On the third day Laban was informed that Jacob had fled.

23 So he took his kinsmen with him, pursued Jacob for seven days, and overtook him at Mount Gilead.

24 But that night God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream and warned him, “Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.” <

## Genesis 31

36 Then Jacob became incensed and challenged Laban.

“What is my crime?” he said. “For what sin of mine have you so hotly pursued me?”

37 You have searched all my goods! Have you found anything that belongs to you?

Put it here before my brothers and yours, that they may judge between the two of us.



## Genesis 31

38 I have been with you for twenty years now. Your sheep and goats have not miscarried, nor have I eaten the rams of your flock.

39 I did not bring you anything torn by wild beasts; I bore the loss myself.

And you demanded payment from me for what was stolen by day or night.

40 As it was, the heat consumed me by day and the frost by night, and sleep fled from my eyes.

## Genesis 31

41 Thus for twenty years I have served in your household—fourteen years for your two daughters and six years for your flocks—and you have changed my wages ten times!

42 If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been with me, surely by now you would have sent me away empty-handed.

But God has seen my affliction and the toil of my hands, and last night He rendered judgment.”

# Lessons on Sanctification from Jacob's Life

1. Jacob Submits to God's Discipline

2. Jacob Responds to the people of this world



# Lessons on Sanctification from Jacob's Life

God employs the people of this world  
to sanctify those who belong to Him

1 Thessalonians 5

23 Now may the God of peace **Himself sanctify you  
completely,**

and may your entire spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless  
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 The One who calls you is faithful, and **He will do it.**

# Lessons on Sanctification from Jacob's Life

God employs the people of this world  
to sanctify those who belong to Him

God employs the POTW to:

1. Test and build our personal character
2. Test and grow us through suffering
3. Test and mold us to be like Christ in returning good for evil
4. Test and prove our devotion to Him

# Lessons on Sanctification from Jacob's Life

God employs the people of this world to test and build  
our personal character /virtue/goodness



## Quotes from Jacob:

- You know how hard I have worked for you.
- You know how I have served you and how your livestock has thrived under my care.
- Indeed, you had very little before my arrival, but now your wealth has increased many times over.
- The LORD has blessed you wherever I set foot.
- So my honesty will testify for me
- You know that I have served your father with all my strength...although he has cheated me and changed my wages ten times,

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# Lessons on Sanctification from Jacob's Life

God employs the people of this world to test and build our personal character /virtue/goodness

1. The world is a laboratory wherein God tests and builds our character

- integrity (honesty, work ethic, morals)
- humility
- selflessness/self-denial
- patience
- peacemaking



## Colossians 3

22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything, not only to please them while they are watching, but with sincerity of heart and **fear of the Lord**.

23 Whatever you do, work at it with your whole being, **for the Lord and not for men,**

24 because you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as your reward.

**It is the Lord Christ you are serving.**

# Lessons on Sanctification from Jacob's Life

God employs the people of this world to test and build our personal character/virtue/goodness

1. The world is a laboratory wherein God tests and builds our character
2. God blesses the POTW and shows off His own glory through our character

## 1 Peter 2

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, to proclaim the virtues of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.



# 1 Peter 2

11 Beloved, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from the desires of the flesh, which war against your soul.

12 Conduct yourselves with such honor among the Gentiles that, though they slander you as evildoers, **they may see your good deeds and glorify God** on the day He visits us.

# Lessons on Sanctification from Jacob's Life

God employs the people of this world to test and grow us through suffering

Genesis 31

But God has seen my affliction and the toil of my hands, and last night He rendered judgment.”

# 1 Peter 1

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in various trials

7 so that the proven character of your faith—more precious than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

# Lessons on Sanctification from Jacob's Life

God employs the people of this world to test and grow us through suffering

1. Suffering causes us to depend on God
2. Suffering causes us to live more for the next world and less for this one
3. Suffering gives power to the Spirit in us



## 1 Peter 4

1 Therefore, since Christ suffered in His body, arm yourselves with the same resolve, because anyone who has suffered in his body is done with sin.

2 Consequently, he does not live out his remaining time on earth for human passions, but for the will of God.

3 For you have spent enough time in the past carrying out the same desires as the Gentiles: living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing, and detestable idolatry.

# Lessons on Sanctification from Jacob's Life

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1. Suffering causes us to depend on God
2. Suffering causes us to live more for the next world and less for this one
3. Suffering gives power to the Spirit in us
4. Suffering in us can be used by God to sanctify others
5. Suffering builds our faith, glorifies God and produces a better resurrection

## Lessons on Sanctification from Jacob's Life

God employs the people of this world to test and mold us to be like Christ in returning good for evil

We are never more like Christ when we love like Him by overcoming evil with good

# 1 Peter 2

18 Servants, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but even to those who are unreasonable.

19 For if anyone endures the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God, this is to be commended.

20 How is it to your credit if you are beaten for doing wrong and you endure it?

But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.



## 1 Peter 2

21 For **to this you were called**, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His footsteps:

22 “He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in His mouth.”

23 When they heaped abuse on Him,  
He did not retaliate;  
when He suffered, He made no threats,  
but entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly.

1 Peter 2:24 He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. “By His stripes you are healed.”

1 Peter 3: 8 Finally, all of you, be like-minded and sympathetic, love as brothers, be tender-hearted and humble.

9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because **to this you were called** so that you may inherit a blessing.

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God employs the people of this world to test  
and prove our devotion to Him

# Lessons on Sanctification from Jacob's Life

God employs the people of this world to test and prove our devotion to Him

1. Do we seek to please God rather than man?
2. Do we trust God to give us wisdom and protection in our dealings with men?
3. Do we serve men as though we are serving God Himself?



## Ephesians 6

5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear and sincerity of heart, **just as you would show to Christ.**

6 And do this not only to please them while they are watching, but **as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.**

7 Serve with good will, **as to the Lord and not to men,**

8 because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

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