

Topic	Jacob's Marriage
Reference	Genesis
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Speaker	Ps Massimo Gei

So we're going to be looking at Jacob's marriage and a recently, a while back, I was sitting at home and on Netflix. And I was looking through what to watch. I think it was a Saturday. I wasn't preaching the next day. So I had some time, Gloria my wife out and she was just getting some errands done. And when she came back, she saw me glued to the TV, watching this. I don't know if anybody has seen what this. This is Indian arranged marriages, and I was just fixated on this and the reason why I wanted to watch it is because it was so counter-cultural to me. The people in this modern day and age would still have arranged marriages and as I started watching the first episode, it was just so intriguing. And when Gloria came home, she just saw me fixed on a TV and going, Ooh, ah, no way. And how can this be? And she said, what are you watching? And then I told her to come next to me and she sat next to me and we binged watch the whole series that day.

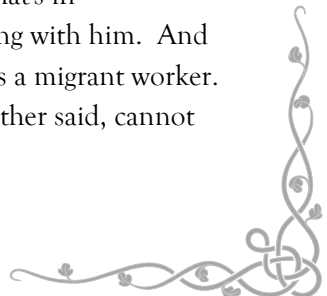
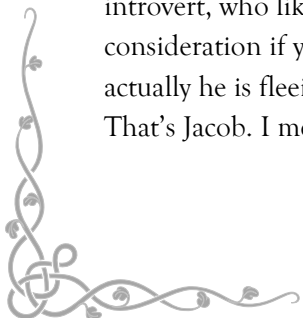
It was so interesting because through that show you could really see what people truly value. Depending on what the parents said about what kind of daughter-in-law they would like to have or what kind of son-in-law they would like to have, you could see what they truly valued and what they truly treasured. Even as they were growing through profiles and then some of the potential bachelors, they were going through profiles of women and they were checking through and they were saying, no, it doesn't meet the criteria, doesn't meet that criteria. You know, she must be beautiful. You know, she must have a job or the lady would say no, and he must have a career. He must get me. He must be funny. You could just really see where their treasures lie, what they truly value, what their life is all about, what they really think gives worth and value.

In today's passage we see the same thing. From this wedding story we can really tell where the various characters have placed their worth and their value, what they are really about, what they truly treasure. And that's what we're gonna look at today. We're gonna look at three things. We're gonna look at, where is your treasure. We are going to look at the treasure hunt. And we're going to look discovering at discovering the real treasure from this text.

WHERE IS YOUR TREASURE?

As I said, we're going to look at each one of these characters in this story, just to be able to understand them a bit and see what it is they treasure and what they really like. So just kind of like the Indian matchmaker show, I've created profiles on every one of those characters. My best effort first for me to introduce the character to you, and then we explore that character together. So let's look at the first character.

We have Jacob. We know a few things about him. We know he makes a really deceivingly good lentil stew. He probably got it from his mother who's by the way also a deceivingly good cook. If we know he likes to chill indoors because in Genesis 25 he says that his brother's going on hunting, he likes to be quiet and dwell in tents. So he's an introvert, who likes to chill indoors. He is fleeing from his brother, so he has got family issues. That's in consideration if you want to marry Jacob, he's got family issues. That's something that comes along with him. And actually he is fleeing his country right now and he is looking for work in another country. So he's a migrant worker. That's Jacob. I mean, he's looking for a wife, but his families have conditions. His mother and father said, cannot



be a Hittite, cannot be a Canaanite. So a little bit racism going on in the family, so he got to be careful about that. That's the background of Jacob, but what is it that he truly treasures? Where does his heart lie? What makes him tick?

As we see the story unfold, as he flees from his home country and finally comes to the land of his uncle, he sees Rachel and he is smitten by her. I mean, she checks all the boxes, right. She's beautiful, we'll explore it later when we get to Rachel. She is on the right pedigree. She is from the uncle's daughter. So she's in the right family. And he is head over heels and he really wants her badly and you can just say, how do you know what he wants her badly. Later on we found out he is willing to pay a really high cost for her. He is willing to pay a high price for her. He is willing to work seven years for her. Now to understand the culture back then, I mean the average, I would say that rate for a down payment for your wife would be about 50 shackles. And the average pay per month of somebody will be 1.5 shackles, so it's what 18 shekels a year times seven years he is willing to pay 126 shekels for her, which is three times the price that you will usually pay for a woman to marry or give to the family to be able to marry or the dowry. It is three times the amount he is willing to pay.

Later on in the passage, we also that he's really, really in love with her and as he was working, it seemed like a few days for him because of his love for her. So that's what he is all about. He loves Rachel. Now the question is, is it love or is it lust. I don't know. It kind of when he finishes his seven days, he says, you know, give me my wife so I can get into her. I was quite sure if I wouldn't have said that to my father in law on my wedding day. It just shows how excited and how he really really believed that his life could change if he would finally have Rachel. Imagine him, he is fleeing from his home. He is looking for new life. He is looking for new hope and he believes that if he would finally have Rachel, then his life would be okay. His life would be okay, only he would have his, lets call it trophy wife.

Let's look at other characters. We have Laban. He is like the godfather of the story, right? He is the patron, he is the guy who owns the business, he is the well-established businessman and we can see that he has two daughters and his background is he is trying to get them married. He wants to get both daughters married. He has a good business and he's an opportunist. Why I say he's an opportunist because when Jacob comes to him and when he is being offered that Jacob of work for him, he's not just contented with the fact that Jacob wants to marry one of his daughters. He's not just contented with the fact that Jacob is willing to work so hard for him. No, he wants to exploit Jacob to the best that he can. And I don't know, maybe that's something very common that we see here as well. We see migrant workers come and business owners trying to exploit them and get any kind of penny and business out of them or make as much money out of them as they possibly can.

Maybe they don't ask them to, while they do ask them to work hours two or three times more than the usual rate. But he's an opportunist. He is trying to exploit Jacob. He is not content. He is the master deceiver, just the way he engages with Jacob. You can see that he really, really knows how to con somebody and make somebody feel guilty about his past. You just see when he finally reveals Leah to Jacob in this story and then Jacob says, you know, what have you done to me? Why have you done that in such a way? You know what he says? Well, because of custom and tradition, but the way he says it, you can see he is really, really trying to teach Jacob a lesson here because he says, well around here, around this area, it's not usual that the younger will get what the older supposed to have.

Now that sounds familiar. Because Jacob took the blessing of his older brother and Laban knew that and he knew how to just work Jacob and get another seven more years out of him. Cause when Jacob heard that her saying, Oh,

around here, the younger doesn't get what the older gets, oh, he is talking about me and he pushed the guilt into him. And I'm saying this guy is the godfather. He knows how to make offers that nobody can refuse. So that is Laban. But what does he value? I mean he covers it on the custom and tradition. He says it is because that's the way around here it's being done. But maybe what he really desires most where his treasure lies maybe status, but he has status. Maybe it's money, but he has money. Maybe it's maybe it's duty, no I'm the business owner. I'm the provider. I gotta make sure my daughters do the right thing. And they end up in the right family. They get the right husband, they have the right education. Maybe that's where his idolatry lies. That's where his treasure lies that people will just, you know, follow tradition and custom and uphold his status. Or maybe he just treasures himself, because he didn't push his daughter into the loveless marriage for her sake, maybe he just wanted to get rid of his problem. Maybe he just wanted to check the boxes and say, okay, daughters married, business expanded, money provided, maybe he just values himself, and sometimes it is hard to tell. Because usually it's a combination of things. It's a mix of things it's not so clear. We might have to ask detailed questions to really find out and we don't have much more information, about Laban in this part of the story

Let's look at Rachel. We know she is the daughter of Laban and we know some background. I mean, she's hardworking. She's got a career going on. She is a shepherdess. So she's not somebody who stays at home. She's got a career going for her and she's beautiful. She is very beautiful. The way it says here in the passage says she is beautiful in form and appearance. It means that she has a pretty face and an attractive body. For the younger generation she is hot and she has got a banging body. That's what it says there. And trust me, that's how blunt the Bible is when it says that they make sure to say that she had a pretty face and an attractive body.

That's what they're trying to show us here. But the problem is she is barren. Even though she marries, she is not able to have children and in the story that's why we included chapter 30 verse one, she says give me children or I die and that is where her treasure lies. She wants to have children and she can't have children at this episode and if read through Genesis and continue to story, you got to think of it as like a series with episodes. Certain truths are true for a particular episode, and then in the next episode, everything twists around and there's some different truth and everything is shaken up. But for this episode she is barren and she cannot have children. And so what is her idol? May be status because back then being a woman and not having children would lower your value, you lower your status and she is not used to not having it. I mean, she's the younger sister. She's the more beautiful one. She's the one who has a great career going on. She's probably like the valedictorian, the one who graduated from Harvard, you know, she's the head cheerleader. She's the beautiful worship leader. That's who she is and suddenly she is barren and when she does not have children she rather die. And of course, now we have Leah and it was really difficult to put picture for Leah, because as a male preaching here, any female picture up there and I say, it's the ugly one. It's just really difficult. So, you know, I spoke to Gloria, what do I do? And she's like, yeah, just don't. But I got one, it says ugly Betty and a picture. Okay. It wasn't that I said it, it was a show where somebody is portraying an ugly Betty. So it wasn't me who said it, the show is all about that.

So Leah is also a daughter of Laban. She is the older sister and it says here she is weak in the eyes. And why would you say that's ugly? Because in the passage it says Leah was weak in her eyes, and if they meant that she didn't have good vision, like maybe we can actually can't see then the passage would have said Leah was weak in our eyes, but Rachel had 20/20 vision. But it doesn't say that. It says Leah was weak in the eyes and Rachel was beautiful. So in comparison, what it means that Leah was not beautiful, which means she is a person, her background she has been rejected. She has been rejected first of all by her sister's beauty, being the older one having the youngest sister, living

in the shadows of the more beautiful sister, constantly being rejected, probably all the suitors that came, all the proposals that matchmaker comes are always for the sister and never for her. She's been rejected by her father. The fact that he has to put a conniving scheme just to get her married, that is another kick in the face, right? That somebody has to scheme you, to cheat just to get you married. She has been rejected by her father, but of course, she is also rejected by her husband.

It says clearly here he married both, but Jacob loved Rachel and she felt hated and rejected. She was able to have children, but her treasure wasn't children. Being somebody who was rejected over and over and over again, what she truly treasures is just to be loved by her husband. And so interestingly are those two sisters. They both have what the other one wants. Rachel wants to have children, but she has the love the husband. Leah has children, but she wants the love of the husband. So the grass always seems greener on the other side, I guess. You always want what you do not have, but this is what she treasures. She treasures to be loved. That's where our heart is. That's what she thinks will make her life okay, if her husband would just love her.

So my question is where is your treasure. Who are you most like? Now these are just some examples and they're not exhaustive, there are many many things that we could treasure in life. Some of them could be items. Maybe your treasure is a car or this new condo that you would like to buy. Maybe that's what you truly treasure, maybe it's duties. Maybe you're like Laban, or maybe you say I'm a father and that's my treasure. I'm a mother and that's what I truly treasure. I'm a preacher. I'm a worship leader. I serve in this capacity. I'm the captain of boy's brigade. I don't know what duty it is that you truly treasure, but it's a duty that all that defines your entire life. It could be others or it could be that person whose love you crave. It could be your children. It could be your husband that your life is all about them. I could be longings. It could be the person who you would love or just look at you just once and this is not necessarily bad things by themselves. I mean, it is not bad to want your husband to love you. It's not bad to be a provider and a father and a mother, it's not bad to love your children. Actually, the Bible tells us to love a lot of things. The Bible tells us to love your children. Love your parents and the Bible tells you to be provider.

So it's not an inappropriate love. It's not an immoral love. That's the problem. It's not sinful love that is our problem. It is disordered love that is our problem. It is loving the wrong things, the wrong amounts, because the question here is not what do you love, the question is what do you love the most? What is your treasure? What do you truly treasure, maybe for you to find out you have to ask yourself some questions. Maybe you have to ask what do you think right now would really change your life? That thing might be the thing that you treasure. What would rock your world? Maybe you have to ask it differently. Maybe be more religious. Maybe you have to ask the question in this way. What's your prayer life look like? What do you pray? What's your prayer like? How would you finish the sentence? God, I will follow you. I will obey you. I will serve you if _____. What comes after the if because that's the thing you really treasure, whatever follows the if.

Now why am I going on and on about this? Why am I going on about all these idols? Why is it so important? Because Jesus says, where your treasure is there your heart will also be. Whatever you treasure, wherever you place your treasure there your heart will also go to that space. It means the trajectory of your life will someday be in the direction of that treasure. And that's what we're going to explore right now here with the second point, the treasure hunt.

So where you lay a treasure is where your heart is, which means the focus of your life will be about pursuing and getting that treasure. When the Bible says heart, it doesn't mean just that you love it. It means that the control

center of your life is engaged with that item. The human is kind of made up out of, let's say five things, and I'm going to create some categories here. And if you really analyze them, they're going to actually be interdependent and they're going to overlap in many areas. And they're not mutually exclusive from one another, but if we would have to develop the human, let's divide him up between mind, will, body, gut and heart.

When I say mind is the mind, the mind is about things. The will is what chooses. The body is what does. The gut is what feels and the heart is what worships, loves and craves. And the Bible tells us in Proverbs says, guard your heart with all vigilance from it flows the spring of life, which means the heart is the control center of all things. And when Jesus says, wherever you lay your treasure, your heart will also be. That means there is something that controls the control center and that is your treasure. And here is how it goes, **whatever the heart loves the mind will think about, the will choose, the body will do and the gut will feel good about.** That is why it's so important to ask a question and ask the question. What is it that you treasure? Because it will become your goal in life. It become your KPI, it become your measurement of contentment. And we are all urban dwellers. We all know about setting KPIs and setting goals and achieving things. We are all about achieving things and we are very driven to pursue and get our treasures.

There is a lot of straining going on in Kuala Lumpur. Pressing, accumulating, achieving, as soon as we have set our mind on something, we will go and get it, which means when we treasure something we will be all about hunting that we are all treasure hunters. But the problem is every treasure hunt comes with a cost. It comes with a price to pay and just look at the story here. What kind of costs they had to bear in pursuit of their treasure. Jacob, he was enslaved for 14 years in pursuit of his treasure. Laban, well if you continue reading the story, he eventually loses his family. In pursuit of expanding his business and doing his duty, his family felt rejected by him. Rachel, it says here give me children or I die. And it says that because of the envy that she had for her sister. It costs her envy and eventually the first thing that we hear about Rachel is, she says give me children or I die and the first reaction from Jacob is, Jacob is upset with her. He's completely angry with her. He says, am I God, I can give you children.

Leah is a bit tricky in this story. Cause it wasn't really her fault, she was pushed in a loveless marriage, but that's the price that she is paying now, she wants to have a husband who loves her but she is stuck in this loveless marriage and she is trying to earn the husband's love by having children after child after child after child. There is a cost to bear. What's your treasurer costing you? Are you enslaved at your job just to make that promotion? Are you so busy making sure your business grows that you're neglecting your family? Are you more concerned that your kids do the right thing and conform to what is expected so that they don't feel loved. Are you pursuing your treasure so much that you are upsetting everybody around you? What's your treasure hunt costing you and is it worth it? Is it worth it? Because that is the second thing we have to look at here. What's the cost of their bearing? What is it? For it to be worth it, the treasurer needs to live up to its expectation. It needs to really complete you and give you all contentment once you find it. And once you discover it and once you hold it and once you acquire it. It must make you whole again, it must make you feel complete. Well, let's look at the story.

Let's look again. Let's look at Jacob. After seven years of working for what he treasures, working hard it is finally time. It's finally time to get his prized possession. He is finally supposed to get his trophy wife. Finally, his life would be okay. Finally, all his hopes and dreams will be met. So he gets his bride and he has his wedding night. After one week of celebration, he has his wedding night and at that moment probably was the best night he ever had. But then the way the story says, it says this, but in the morning and behold it was Leah. Now you might think, well, he didn't really get what he wanted. So of course it's a disappointment. He didn't really get what was promised. So of

course he's disappointed, but Leah here represents something greater than just a con and before we say that, did Laban really promise him Rachel. If you look back at the text Laban never said okay. He never said, I'll give you Rachel for seven years. The story went like this. What wages do you want? I'll give you seven years for her. And he says, well, it's better for me to give you to her that you give it to somebody else, stay with me. He never said, okay, it's kind of like this. You come to me and says, Massimo can I have a hundred bucks? And I said, yeah, it's better to give you a hundred bucks and throw in the trash. It doesn't mean I'm going to give you a hundred bucks. I'm just saying it's better for me to give you a hundred bucks, but I have absolutely no thought about throwing hundred bucks to the trash. He never promised it. So, so as much as you think, and as much the story is true, as much as Laban deceive Jacob, Jacob deceived himself.

Cause he was so consumed about getting his idol and so consumed by getting his treasure, so consumed about getting his wife that he deceived himself, and a lot of times that is what we do, when we are so consumed with something, we make it a value and a worth and we think it is going to make promises and it is going to fulfill us then we deceive ourselves about those things.

Now it was never promised to him. You see Leah represents something here for all of us. And it says behold, it was Leah. It represents apartment when the treasure does not measure up to the expectations that we put up on that treasure, when we finally receive that treasure, it does not provide the contentment that we thought it would. It is like the job that you hope you would get and finally you get it and everything is great, and you go to sleep at night and the next day wake up in the morning and you go to the job and behold it is Leah. It is not the Rachael that you expected it to be.

In fact, the car you bought and you drive it all week long and then after the week behold, it is Leah. It doesn't measure up. We are always pursuing someone or something for ultimate meaning and that's the problem. Nothing, no one can measure up to that. Nothing can provide you ultimate meaning. The treasure you are pursuing is like most treasure hunts. It's a myth. Like most treasure hunts, what you thought would be, or what you thought would change your life, a treasure would change your life will end up being just a rusty old coin in a tiny little box somewhere. The problem is that all these treasures are only as valuable as we make them to be. That's the problem.

You see we ascribe value to things and we hold them so valuable. We think they are our treasure, but the only reason they are a treasure is not because they have intrinsic value, it is not because they have value of themselves in themselves, it is because they have value just because we ascribe value to them. They are valuable because we hold them valuable and as soon as we acquire them, as soon as we get them, we don't think they are valuable anymore and that is why we are not contented with them. That's why we want more. We want the other house, other car, we want a wife and then we want children. When we get children, we want grandchildren. We want more, it is never enough.

So, because it doesn't have intrinsic value, it can never measure up to the expectation that you put on it, which means your treasure hunt is not a pursuit of life, but a pathway to death. It is a setup for disappointment. It is a setup for disappointment. You will always be disappointed, because all these treasures they will always fail.

Momentarily joys yes. Momentary satisfaction, but eventually they will fail you. It's an apocalyptic romanticism. It's a love that leads to death.

So treasure will never satisfy you because it does not have the capacity to satisfy you. You need something of ultimate capacity, of ultimate worth, of ultimate value, and we know that the answer is God. God is the only one who has intrinsic value in himself. It is not about how much value you ascribe to him. He has ultimate value and his value never runs out. His love never runs out. He is the only one who can continue giving and giving and giving. And when you think you have discovered him, there's much more to discover. If you have grasped his love, there's a greater love to be grasped by him. But we know that, and I don't have to stand in front of you and tell you that, it is not new news, but you see the problem that we talked about is not that where your thoughts are there your heart will also be, it's not where your knowledge is there your heart will also be. It doesn't say guard your mind with all vigilance from it flows the spring of life. It says guard your heart. It says where you lay your treasure your heart will always be. It has something to do with the heart and even though we know this truth, the biggest gap is usually the distance between our heads into our hearts.

So then how do we go about this? Well, we have to discover the real treasure. We have to truly discover the real treasure. That's what we're gonna look at right now and we have to look at Leah's story. It's about looking at Leah we can see how God transforms her heart bit by bit. How she slowly bit by bit discovers the treasure. And we can see the transformation in the naming of her kids. If you look at the last part it says,

when the Lord saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb but Rachel was barren and Leah conceived and bore a son and she called him Reuben for she said because the Lord has looked upon my affliction for now my husband will love me.

So still Leah hopes that her husband will love her. She conceived again and bore a son and said,

because the Lord has heard me, I'm hated. He has given me this son also

She still got a son, but she's still focusing on the fact that she's hated. She called him Simeon. And again, she conceived and bore a son and said, now this time my husband will be attached to me. Still going on about her husband. Because I have born him three sons, therefore his name will be called Levi and she conceived again and bore a son and said this time I will praise the Lord. Therefore she called him Judah. Then she sees sparing, something changed, suddenly she would praise the Lord. A few things we can look at here. First thing is she always talked to God and she brought her desires to God. See, she wasn't just calling on any God. She was calling on Yahweh, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And she was bringing her real, honest, true, maybe not the most glorifying to God desires, but her real desires to God. God, I want to have the love of my husband. And yes, you give me children, but I want my husband, but what she does she is not trying to hide her desires from God, but she brings her desires to God.

So often in our prayer, what we do is we have this really, you know, righteous and Holy kind of prayer going on, Oh Lord make me a more Holy person, O Lord, make me more righteous, O Lord, you know, give me the desires of your heart. But in the reality, we have all these desires which are really actually bothering us. And we're trying to do is like we're taking this beach ball and we're trying to suppress it on the water. Maybe we are pushing it lower and lower and we're hoping that as we push it lower and lower eventually it'll go away and maybe God will not see our true desire. But the reality is if you take a beach ball and you push it under water, guess what's going to happen, as soon as you're not thinking about it, as soon as you don't have the strength anymore, as soon as you lose control, it pops back up again.

And God knows what your desires are. He sees you for who you are. You can't hide those things. So might as well take that beach ball and present to him and say, Lord this is me. This is what I truly desire. And you know what, from the story, we can see that God works with weak people like that, because we are with people like that. We have our desires in all wrong places. Our hearts are all disordered. We have this ordered love, but we just bring them to God and God see, he slowly starts working. He answers our prayer. Now, when I say he answers her prayer, don't hear me saying that he gives her what she wants. He doesn't, he doesn't give her the love of the husband, but he gives her what she needs.

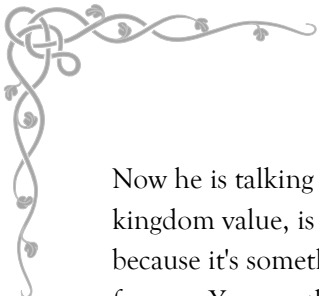
He gives her children. As she is praying and talking to God, God is slowly giving her what she needs. God does not give you necessarily what you want. God gives you what you need and they put it differently. God will give you what you would ask for, if you would know what God knows. If you would know what God knows, who will be asking for the things that God has giving you. He gives you what you need, and slowly he starts working in her and through her. And if you look at a text again, the first son she says, because the Lord has seen me, she feels seen. The second son because the God has heard me, she finally feels heard. Somebody who was rejected over and over and over again, finally she has God who sees her, who hears her and at the end she praises God because she felt valued by God. He ascribed value to her.

A value that she didn't even comprehend, a value that we don't even see completely unfold in this story, a value that we will have to go all the way to the New Testament to really see what value she receives, because it was through her son, Judah, that King David will come that Solomon come, that Jesus will come. It was through her line that Jesus will come, the son of God. I mean, what greater honor, what greater worth, what greater value to give to somebody. But she felt valued because she received value from God. He gave her the greatest honor. He ascribed to her the greatest value of that custom of that time. And that what changed her heart? It's what rightly ordered her heart. She discovered that God loves her, that God values her, that she is the true treasure, that the greatest treasure of them all treasures her.

And that's the key. You see, it's not just about attaining your treasure. It's about your treasure treasuring you. It is not about getting a job, right? Once you have the job, you want to see the paycheck that comes with the job that ascribes value to you. It's about your treasure treasuring you. It's not just about having that husband, but it's about your husband looking at you and saying, I love you. It's you put your treasure treasuring you. It's not just about having those children, but having those children run to you when you walk through the door and embracing you is what your treasure treasuring you, is by discovering that you are a treasure

It is when your treasure treasures you, that you feel whole and content. And here we see the greatest treasure of them, all the one who has intrinsic value, God treasuring her, giving somebody of ultimate words of ultimate value, the one who will never fail saying Leah I see you, Leah I hear you, Leah, I treasure you.

Jesus in one of his parables teaches about a very important kingdom value. It's a kingdom principle. It is a gospel ethic and he says this, the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and covered up then in his joy, he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls who aren't finding one Pearl of great value, went out and sold all that he had and bought it.



Now he is talking about a kingdom principle here and the kingdom principle is not a kingdom principle, or kingdom value, is not a kingdom value because you must do it. That doesn't make it a kingdom value. It's not because it's something that the King expects of you. It's a kingdom value because it's what the King has already done for you. You are that hidden treasure. You are that pearl of great price and Jesus saw you and treasured you and he went on the greatest treasure hunt ever. He left heavens and what cost he bore. It came at great cost, his treasure hunt. He was captured and enslaved. He was beaten and mocked and scorn, and he was rejected over and over and over again by his friends, by his family and ultimately on the cross by his father. And he paid the greatest price. He gave his life for you.

It is the greatest act of apocalyptic romanticism. It's not a love that leads to death, but a death that demonstrates love. Because he was rejected, you can be accepted. Because he was enslaved, you can be free. Because he gave his life, he demonstrated his love for you. His love beyond anything that you can imagine, you are the pearl of great price. You are the hidden treasure and to the degree that you see him treasure you to that degree you will treasure him. That's what changes your heart. That's what changes the knowledge to something you know in your heart, not realizing that you have to go get God, but that God went out and got you because he values you.

Leah felt valued and treasured because God gave her sons. He treasures you because he gave you his son. And to the degree you see his love for you to Christ crucified on the cross. So that degree you will be like Leah and you will say praise be to God. It will rightly order your heart. It will change the trajectory of your life. It will make you feel whole and complete and content. Let us pray.

Heavenly father, we come before you and we confess to you that we treasure so many things aside of you and father, not just that we love things, but we love things and make them ultimate things that so often we love things more than you. Father would you show us what those things are? Father help us see the cost. Let us see the destruction of that treasure hunt. Let us see what is truly costing us. And father help us to evaluate whether it is worth it all. Father beyond and above all things help us to see Christ crucified on the cross, help us see that you truly treasure us, help us reflect on the gospel, help us meditate on the good news that you went and pursued us so that we can respond in praise and father we know that nothing can measure up, nothing can make us righteous, nothing can make us whole, nothing but the blood of Christ. Amen.