

The InnerCHANGE

Online Edition for the Cross Point Community



Title: Show Up

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Series: Forefathers

Text: Gen 29:1-30:24

Synopsis: Have you ever thought to yourself, “God could never use me?” Maybe you think, “My family is too messed up” or “I don’t have enough faith” or my personal favorite, “I have too many bad habits.” Does any of this sound familiar?

The patriarch Jacob had all of these issues. He completes his five hundred mile journey to Haran on foot and meets the girl of his dreams. He impresses her with his physical strength but he still has a problem. His millionaire father has sent him on this journey to find a wife with no money, no dowry, and not even a donkey to bring her home. Jacob is forced into hard labor for seven years to earn his bride but on the night of his wedding he is duped into marrying her sister. After fulfilling the responsibilities of the bridal week, he is then free to marry the girl he really loves if he agrees to work for another seven years. Jacob does agree, but now he has two wives who are competing with each other for his affection by producing children and are using their maidservants for a procreative advantage.

Over the course of the next seven years or so these four competing women produce eleven sons and one daughter in their competition for Jacob’s favor and they use every means at their disposal. They use emotional blackmail, magic, and even barter for sexual favors. Throughout these years there is little demonstration of love for one another and even less demonstration of faith in God. In stark contrast to Jacob’s grandfather Abraham and his father Isaac, there is no mention of Jacob praying or worshiping even though his family desperately needs him to be the spiritual head of his home.

For many of us, this sound all too familiar. And there is not much to say that Jacob does right throughout this season. Except this, Jacob shows up. In spite of the harsh treatment from his father and his uncle, in spite of his domestic chaos, in spite of his resentment, faithlessness and yes, even his bad habits, he never checks out. You see, most of our problems exist because we quit. We simply stop trying. God never promises us a life of ease, but what he does promise is a new day filled with his grace. For most of us, like Jacob, we have little in our lives that can’t be overcome with some hard work and perseverance. Basically, ya gotta show up for life. Jacob did, and so can you.