**Finding Grace**

**Grace from the Patriarchs**

**Grace that Supersedes**

**Romans 5:20** - *…where sin abounded, grace abounded all the more…*

**Romans 4:3, 16** - *For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all…*

**Genesis 25:23** - *The Lord said to her, “Two nations are in your womb; and two peoples will be separated from your body; and one people shall be stronger than the other; and the older shall serve the younger.”*

**Genesis 27:34** - *…he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry…*

**Genesis 27:41** - *So Esau bore a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him; and Esau said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob.”*

3 lessons about grace in the midst of human frailty

**I. Whenever Human Beings are Involved, Sin and Heartache are Not Far Behind**

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as, the curse is found.

A. Jacob’s lack of spiritual depth and leadership

B. Laban’s treachery

**Genesis 31:41** - *These twenty years I have been in your house; I served you fourteen years for your two daughters and six years for your flock, and you changed my wages ten times.*

C. Leah and Rachel’s rivalry

**Genesis 29:30** - *So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and indeed he loved Rachel more than Leah, and he served with Laban for another seven years.*

D. The ancestral roots of the twelve tribes of Israel

**Genesis 29:32** - *Leah conceived and bore a son and named him Reuben, for she said, “Because the Lord has seen my affliction; surely now my husband will love me.”*

**Genesis 29:34** - *She conceived again and bore a son and said, “Now this time my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons.” Therefore he was named Levi.*

**II. God Often Uses the Principle and Power of Cause and Effect**

A. Jacob is being “out-Jacobed” by his uncle

**Galatians 6:7** - *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.*

B. Consider the inter-generational lessons here

**Genesis 27:43-45** - *Now therefore, my son, obey my voice, and arise, flee to Haran, to my brother Laban! Stay with him a few days, until your brother’s fury subsides, until your brother’s anger against you subsides and he forgets what you did to him. Then I will send and get you from there. Why should I be bereaved of you both in one day?*

**Galatians 6:8-10** - *For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.*

**Proverbs 22:6** - *Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.*

**3 John 4** - *I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.*

**III. God Accomplishes His Purposes through Flawed People and Metes out Consequences in a Way that is Perfectly Balanced**

**Genesis 30:41-43** - *Moreover, whenever the stronger of the flock were mating, Jacob would place the rods in the sight of the flock in the gutters, so that they might mate by the rods; but when the flock was feeble, he did not put them in; so the feebler were Laban’s and the stronger Jacob’s. So the man became exceedingly prosperous, and had large flocks and female and male servants and camels and donkeys.*

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove; the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and wonders and wonders of His love.