**Patriarchs** *\*\*Series Graphic\*\**

(Genesis 30:25-30)

“After Rachel gave birth to Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, “Send me on my way so I can go back to my own homeland. Give me my wives and children, for whom I have served you, and I will be on my way. You know how much work I’ve done for you.”But Laban said to him, “If I have found favor in your eyes, please stay. I have learned by divination that the Lord has blessed me because of you.” He added, “Name your wages, and I will pay them.” Jacob said to him, “You know how I have worked for you and how your livestock has fared under my care.The little you had before I came has increased greatly, and the Lord has blessed you wherever I have been. But now, **when may I do something for my own household**?”

 What about **me**?

(Genesis 30:31-32)

“What shall I give you?” he asked. “Don’t give me anything,” Jacob replied. “But if you will do this one thing for me, I will go on tending your flocks and watching over them: 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. They will be my wages.”

(Genesis 30:34-36)

“Agreed,” said Laban. “Let it be as you have said.”That same day he removed all the male goats that were streaked or spotted, and all the speckled or spotted female goats (all that had white on them) and all the dark-colored lambs, and he placed them in the care of his sons.Then he put a three-day journey between himself and Jacob, while Jacob continued to tend the rest of Laban’s flocks.”

 What do you do when you’re **set up to lose**?

(Genesis 30:37-39)

“Jacob, however, took fresh-cut branches from poplar, almond and plane trees and made white stripes on them by peeling the bark and exposing the white inner wood of the branches.Then he placed the peeled branches in all the watering troughs, so that they would be directly in front of the flocks when they came to drink. When the flocks were in heat and came to drink,they mated in front of the branches. And they bore young that were streaked or speckled or spotted.”

 **Trust** in God and get to **work**.

(Genesis 30:41-43)

“Whenever the stronger females were in heat, Jacob would place the branches in the troughs in front of the animals so they would mate near the branches, but if the animals were weak, he would not place them there. So the weak animals went to Laban and the strong ones to Jacob. In this way the man grew exceedingly prosperous and came to own large flocks, and female and male servants, and camels and donkeys.”

 In due time, the Lord **greatly rewards** those who have helped make **others great**.

(Genesis 31:1-3)

“Jacob heard that Laban’s sons were saying, “Jacob has taken everything our father owned and has gained all this wealth from what belonged to our father.” And Jacob noticed that Laban’s attitude toward him was not what it had been.Then the Lord said to Jacob, “**Go** back to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, **and I will be with you**.”

 When do you **know** when it’s time **to go**?

(Genesis 31:40-42)

“This was my situation: The heat consumed me in the daytime and the cold at night, and sleep fled from my eyes. It was like this for the twenty years I was in your household. I worked for you fourteen years for your two daughters and six years for your flocks, and you changed my wages ten times. If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been with me, you would surely have sent me away empty-handed. **But God has seen my hardship and the toil of my hands**, and last night he rebuked you.”

 It’s **not** for nothing. God **sees you** at work, and **He’s got your back**.