

SPOUSAL ABUSE

(Gen.30:8) “So **Rachel said**, ‘With mighty wrestling I have wrestled with my sister, and I have indeed prevailed.’” (Naphtali) [naming of child]

(Gen.30:14-16) “But she (**Leah**) **said** to her (Rachel), ‘Is it a small matter for you to take my husband? And would you take my son’s mandrakes, also?’ So, **Rachel said**, ‘Therefore he may be with you tonight in return for your son’s mandrakes.’ When Jacob came in from the field in the evening **then Leah went out to meet him and said**, ‘You must come into me, for I have surely hired you with my son’s mandrakes.’ So, he lay with her that night.”

This is how spiritually advancing believers fight, tactical and often abusive, emotional charged, with sharp verbal gabbing, typically at length, about trivial matters.

(James.4:1-2) “What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; *so*, you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; *so*, you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask.

Spousal abuse falls normally under five categories of victimization: emotional, verbal, economical, physical, and sexual.

- It is reported occurring at rate of 20 per minute in the USA.
- 1.7 million work days are reported lost every year because of it, with \$3-5 billion dollars loss of productivity.

This lesson will study <u>third aspects</u> of Spousal Abuse.
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1. The most common Spousal Abuse reported between Jacob, Leah, and Rachel was emotional, verbal, and sexual. It is reported that 47 million couples have engaged in at least one violent episode in USA.

Jacob’s justification given for spousal abuse was three-fold.

- **First, he made his love for Rachel very clear to Laban (publicly) during their courtship.**
 - (Gen.29:18) Now Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.”
 - (Gen.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”.
- **Second, Jacob’s ill-will towards Laban’s deceit was taken out on Leah, but not on Rachel.**
 - (Gen.29:25) “So it came about in the morning that, behold, it was Leah! And he said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served with you? Why then have you deceived me?”
 - (Gen.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”.

- **Third, Leah’s guilt of the way Jacob married her caused her to accept a role of victim of spousal abuse.**
 - (Gen.29:31-35) Now the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, and He opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. 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.” Then she conceived again and bore a son and said, “Because the LORD has heard that I am unloved, He has therefore given me this *son* also.” So, she named him Simeon. 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. And she conceived again and bore a son and said, “This time I will praise the LORD.” Therefore, she named him Judah. Then she stopped bearing.

It is important to understand that we chose HOW WE RESPOND to the things that happen to us in life. But we are still responsible for our choices, even when we have not chosen the things that have happened to us.

(Jas.1:17) “Every good gift and perfect gift is **from above, coming down from** the Father of lights with whom there is no variation of shifting shadow.”

(Rom.8:28) “And we know that **God causes all things to work together for good** to those who love God, to those who are called according to His will.”

2. For Leah and Jacob, this was a loveless marriage between two believers, for Rachel was Jacob’s love of his life.

We are not certain about Rachel’s involvement for the Bible only records Leah’s love for Jacob and Jacob’s love for Rachel.

(Gen.29:30a) “He loved Rachel more than Leah.”

(Gen.29:31a) “Now the Lord saw that Leah was unloved.”

(Gen.29:33) “Because the Lord has seen my affliction; surely now my husband will love me.”

(Note Leah’s desperation)

Hear What the Bible Says

(Eph.5:25) “**Husbands, love** (agapao/ p.a. impv.2pl) [Unconditional love - all the time] your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.”

(Eph.5:28) “So husbands ought (opheilo) [to owe, obligated] **to love their own wives as their own bodies.** He who loves his own wife love himself.”

(Eph.5:33) “Nevertheless, **each individual among you also is to love** (agapao/ p.a. impv.3ps) **his own wife even as himself**, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.”

3. This can only be done by the Filling ministry of Indwelling Holy Spirit. You cannot do this in the flesh (OSN carnality) (1Cor.3:1-3).

(Gal.5:16) “But I say, **walk** (peripateo/ p.a. impv.2pl) **by the Spirit**, and you will NOT carry out the desire of the flesh.” (Gal.5:13-26) [**flesh**] (Gal.5:13-15; 16-18; 19-21; 22-26).

(Rom.5:5) “**The love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit** who was given to us.” (Gal.3:2)

(Gal.5:22) “But the **fruit of the Spirit is love.**”

