

Greetings & Salutations, Fellow "Douloi of Chrestus"...

Our recent lessons in Genesis have considered the duplicity of men & women, within a context of greed, lust & romantic endeavors. I failed to identify our own duplicity, and therefore seek your prayers for God's forgiveness.

For example, when we considered Leah and Rachel's "solution" for their barrenness, we discussed whether their approach was moral, given the mores of the era, or whether their desire for affirmation through bearing children caused them to overlook "inviting" their maidservants to sleep with Jacob. And so, there we have it. Moral relativity infecting our sense of outrage. Yes, we were willing to overlook/forgive Leah and Rachel for inviting their maidservants to sleep with their husband, Jacob. Very modern we are indeed.

BUT! What about Zilpah and and Bilhah?

What happened to our outrage over two servants being ordered to sleep with "the boss?"

What happened to our God-given empathy?

What happened to our sense of right and wrong?

And, what if Zilpah were named Stacy? Or Karalynn? Or Kelly?

And, what if Bilhah were named Jennifer? Or Mickey? Or Jenna?

So, here is my prayer for all us in general and me in particular. I invite you to add to it and forward same to the list noted above.

Father God:

We praise You for Your Exemplar of love. Even with our evil nature as we continually choose ourselves and others over You, You condescended to reach us through sending the Christ to earth as Jesus of Nazareth. As we consider our evil, maligned, and vile study of Your holy Word in Genesis 30, please forgive us. Please forgive us for our lack of empathy—our toxic culture has blinded us to the pain of others. Even if it is "acceptable" to overlook or to merely "tsk-tsk" by our culture's standards, may we look with new eyes, feel with a more sensitive heart, and act with **Your** moral strength when we encounter evil. By the authority of Christ Jesus, I pray. So be it, let it be, make it so, truly, amen.

Peace in and through **Him**



As for me and my mouse, we will serve the Lord.

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