



“Painful Providence: When God’s Plan is Not What We Expected”

2/16/25 Text: Genesis 29:1-30

Main Idea: God’s Providence is always at work in our journey, using seasons of waiting, disappointment, and even deception to shape us for His greater purpose—one that far exceeds our own plans and preferences.

1. God’s Providence in our Journey (vs. 1-14).

Q. What do you understand by the providence of God?

A. Providence is the almighty and ever present power of God by which he upholds, as with his hand, heaven and earth and all creatures, and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty—all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but from his fatherly hand (Heidelberg Catechism Q/A 27).

2. The Perseverance of Love when Waiting (vs. 15-20).

[20] *So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.*

3. The Pain of Deception and Disappointment (vs. 21-27).

[25] *And in the morning, behold, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?”*

4. God’s Plan is Greater than our Preferences (vs. 28-30).

*1 Corinthians 1:27; Isaiah 53:3

Application: Trusting God’s Plan Beyond Our Preferences

- 1) _____ God’s Providence in your journey. (Proverbs 16:9)
- 2) Be _____ in the waiting. (Isaiah 40:31)
- 3) _____ from disappointment instead of becoming bitter. (Romans 8:28)
- 4) _____ your preferences to God’s greater plan. (Ephesians 3:20)

If you were to share a key insight from today’s sermon with a friend, what would you say in a sentence or two?

Application Questions: In past seasons where God’s plan did not align with your expectations, can you look back now and see His Providence at work in ways you didn’t recognize at the time? How do you respond to seasons of waiting: trusting God’s process, or struggling with frustration and impatience? How do you typically respond when life doesn’t go as planned—lean into faith or bitterness? How can you learn to trust God in such times? What area of your life do you need to surrender to God’s greater plan, even if it’s painful or unexpected? How does trusting in His sovereignty bring peace during uncertainty? How does this sermon help you LOVE God and others “More and More?”

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