

## **“FROM SORROW TO JOY”**

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**INTRO:** God wants to turn your sorrow into joy!

**1. Jacob marries Leah & Rachel (Gen. 29; esp. vv. 17, 30-31).**

- Leah was not as attractive as her younger sister Rachel.
- Leah was unloved by her husband Jacob.

**2. Can You Relate to how Leah Must have Felt?**

**3. Leah sought to be Loved by Producing rather than Being.**

**MY FOUR SONS:**

1) Reuben – “*see, a son*” (Gen. 29:32).

- A. She hoped birthing a son would earn Jacob’s love.
- B. Does God *see* me? Does my husband *see* me now?
- C. Have you been trying to earn love?

2) Simeon – “*heard*” (Gen. 29:33).

- A. She hoped birthing a 2<sup>nd</sup> son would earn Jacob’s love.
- B. Does God *hear* me? Does my husband love me now?

3) Levi – “*attached*” (Gen. 29:34).

- A. She hoped birthing a 3<sup>rd</sup> son would earn Jacob’s love.
- B. Did she now feel *attached* to her husband?

4) Judah – “*praise*” (Gen. 39:35).

- A. She’s now more focused on praising God than trying to earn her husband’s love!
- B. God *sees, hears* and *connects* with you, so *praise* Him!

**4. Turn Your Pain & Weariness into Praise & Fruitfulness!**

- A. Think of all that came from Moses and David!

**5. God Wants to Turn Your Sorrow into Joy!**

- A. John 16:20-22 – from sorrow to joy!
- B. Isa. 54:1 – no weapon formed against you will prosper!
- C. Psalm 30:2, 4-5, 11-12 – from mourning to dancing!
- D. Ecc. 1, 4 – A time to laugh and dance!
- E. Isa. 63:1-3, 7, 9 – An extreme makeover!
- F. Matt. 11:28-30 – Rest for the weary!

**CONCLUSION:** Let Jesus turn your sorrow, pain and weariness into joy, fruitfulness and praise!