

Genesis 31.19-55 keywords

Now Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel **stole** her father's teraphim.

And Jacob **stole** the heart of Laban the Aramean, in that he did not tell him that he intended to **flee**. So he **fled** with all that he had; starting out he crossed the Euphrates, and set his face toward the **hill country of Gilead**. On the third day Laban was told that Jacob had **fled**. So he took his **kinsfolk** with him and pursued him for seven days until he caught up with him in the **hill country of Gilead**.

But **God** came to Laban the Aramean in a dream by night, and said to him, "Watch that you say not a word to Jacob, either good or bad."

Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country, and Laban with his **kinsfolk** camped in the **hill country of Gilead**. Laban said to Jacob, "What have you done? You have **stolen** my heart, and carried away my **daughters** like captives of the sword. Why did you **flee** secretly and **steal** me and not tell me? I would have sent you away with mirth and songs, with tambourine and lyre. And why did you not permit me to kiss my sons and my **daughters** farewell? What you have done is foolish.

It is in my hand to do you harm; but the **God of your father** spoke to me last night, saying, 'Watch that you speak to Jacob neither good nor bad.' Even though you had to go because you longed greatly for your father's house, why did you **steal** my gods?"

Jacob answered Laban, "Because I was afraid, for I thought that you would take your **daughters** from me by force. But anyone with whom you find your gods shall not live. In the presence of our **kinsfolk**, recognize what I have that is yours, and take it." Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had **stolen** the gods.

So Laban went into Jacob's **tent**, and into Leah's **tent**, and into the **tent** of the two maid-servants, but he did not find them. And he went out of Leah's **tent**, and entered Rachel's. Now Rachel had taken the teraphim and put them in the camel's saddle, and sat on them. Laban felt all about in the **tent**, but did not find them. And she said to her father, "Let not my lord be angry that I cannot rise before you, for the way of women is upon me." So he searched, but did not find the teraphim.

Then Jacob became angry, and upbraided Laban. Jacob said to Laban, "What is my offense? What is my sin, that you have hotly pursued me? Although you have felt about through all my goods, what have you found of all your household goods? Set it here before my **kinsfolk** and your **kinsfolk**, so that they may decide between us two. These twenty years I have been with you; your ewes and your female goats have not miscarried, and I have not eaten the rams of your **flocks**. That which was torn by wild beasts I did not bring to you; I bore the loss of it myself; of my hand you required it, whether **stolen** by day or **stolen** by night. It was like this with me: by day the heat consumed me, and the cold by night, and my sleep **fled** from my eyes. 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 have changed my wages ten times. If the **God of my father**, the **God of Abraham** and the Fear of Isaac, had not been on my side, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. **God** saw my affliction and the labor of my hands, and rebuked you last night."

Then Laban answered and said to Jacob, "The **daughters** are my **daughters**, the children are my children, the **flocks** are my **flocks**, and all that you see is mine. But what can I do today about these **daughters** of mine, or about their children whom they have borne? Come now, let us make a covenant, you and I; and let it be a **witness** between you and me." So Jacob took a stone, and set it up as a pillar. And Jacob said to his **kinsfolk**, "Gather stones," and they took stones, and made a **heap**; and they ate there by the **heap**. Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha: but Jacob called it Galeed. Laban said, "This **heap** is a **witness** between you and me today." Therefore he called it Galeed, and the pillar Mizpah, for he said, "YHWH watch between you and me, when we are absent one from the other. If you ill-treat my **daughters**, or if you take women in addition to my **daughters**, though no one else is with us, remember that **God** is **witness** between you and me." Then Laban said to Jacob, "See this **heap** and see the pillar, which I have set between you and me. This **heap** is a **witness**, and the pillar is a **witness**, that I will not pass beyond this **heap** to you, and you will not pass beyond this **heap** and this pillar to me, for harm. May the **God of Abraham** and the **God of Nahor**--the **God of their father**--judge between us." So Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac, and Jacob offered a sacrifice on the height and called his **kinsfolk** to eat bread; and they ate bread and tarried all night in the hill country. Early in the morning Laban rose up, and kissed his grandchildren and his **daughters** and blessed them; then he departed and returned home.