

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE CHURCH (IBC) LINZ

Flötzerweg 156 (Neue Heimat) 4030 Linz

...then you shall know the truth and the truth will set you free. Jn.8:32

SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

06:12:15

Theme: JACOB, S POLYGAMY AND PROBLEMS

Memory Verse: *Leviticus 18:18* “Neither shalt thou take a wife to her sister, to vex her, to uncover her nakedness, beside the other in her life time.”

Texts: Genesis 30:1-24; 1 Samuel 1:1-7

Jacob was a polygamist, a rare brand of it. He was married to two siblings. The Mosaic Law was later forbid his brand of polygamy: “Neither shalt thou take a wife to her sister, to vex her, to uncover her nakedness, beside the other in her life time.” Jacob was not spared the troubles, rancour, rivalry, petty squabbles, frustration, and tensions characteristic of all polygamous marriages; he all these in good measure. There was Rachel’s exasperating cry, “give me children or else I die” and his frustration replies “am I in God’s stead, who hath withheld from thee the fruit of the womb?” Jacob could have prayed for her as Isaac did for his mother Rebecca (Genesis 25:21).

Merely complaining and despairing at our misfortunes or afflictions in life has no benefits whatever. Secondly, there was the long fighting for Jacob between Leah and Rachel, and Jacob’s acquiescence in the same. The rivalry of his two wives pushed Jacob further into deeper problem. More women now shared his bed and more children came out of the relationships. His case is a classic demonstration that God has not equipped any man, whatever his genius or skill, to cohabit with more than one woman.

Thirdly, there was the jealousy, murderous, hatred and terrible wickedness of Jacob’s children later in life (Genesis 37:8, 18-20). The message from Jacob’s polygamy is all too clear: polygamy is not the will of God; monogamy is what our Lord Jesus Christ teaches. “One man, one wife” is God standard for marriage irrespective of man’s time or clime, culture or tradition, preferences or desires. Let us reason together, if according to our Lord’s teaching, the lustful look by a married man is adultery(Mathew 5:27,28), does it not stand to reason that taking a second woman is adultery completed? All polygamists are, therefore, adulterous; and adultery is sin that will damn a soul in hell (Revelation 21:8).