Genesis Devotion #50

Written 1/26/1991

Scripture: Genesis 30:25-43

The Lord Blesses Who He Wants

(Please Read)

Things to Consider:

Jacob finished off his 14 years of work to earn his two wives. He was ready to go back home. Through unholy means, Laban figured out that Jacob was making him rich. If he could make a deal with Jacob, he thought he could get still richer. Laban and Jacob both know a little about animal husbandry and genetics. After their deal was made, Laban thought he had assured that no spotted or dark offspring would be born by separating the breeding stock. As far as I know, the use of the branches by Jacob had no real effect on the animals. It was the Lord that chose to bless Jacob's flocks and fortunes. In spite of all the maneuvering, God alone is again to be seen as in charge.

Questions:

1. List some of the ways Laban and Jacob tried to deceive one another.

2. Can you think of ways business people sometimes try to deceive or take advantage of the public?

3. Do Jacob's actions teach us that we use any means to look out for our own interests?

Catechism:

#75: What will such covetousness move us to do?

Answer: Such covetousness will move us to try to get our neighbor's wife, servants, or cattle away from him.

Hymn:

"Here Is the Tenfold Sure Command"
LW: 331 (verse 8)

"You shall not steal or cheat away
What others worked for night and day,
But open up a gen'rous hand
To feed the poor in the land.
Have mercy, Lord!"

Prayer:

God of mercy, God of love, You bless me beyond all my real needs. Help me to be satisfied with all I have. When others prosper, let me rejoice in their good fortune. When You bless me, direct me to share my blessings with others who are not as fortunate. Remove from me all jealousy and envy. I pray for the heart and mind of Christ.
Amen.