

**A LESSON FROM THE STORY OF LEAH
ON RECEIVING GOD'S LOVE & ACCEPTANCE**

By Pastor Polly Sanders-Peterson

Once there was a girl named Leah. You can read about her in Genesis, chapters 29 & 30.

Leah had kindly eyes, and was sweet but very shy. She was the older sister to a beautiful girl named Rachel. Their dad was named Laban.

Leah had grown up feeling unimportant and shunned. She had way too little self worth. Desperate for acceptance, she married a man named Jacob, who didn't love or want her. In fact, he was in love with her more beautiful and confident younger sister. Hungry for love, she foolishly believed she could win Jacob's love by producing sons for him.

Leah's insecurity allowed her to be deceived into wrong thinking – thinking that led her to believe she could win her husband's love and acceptance by earning it. Her problems didn't begin with Jacob. Her sense of little worth and low self-esteem had become a part of her well before Jacob ever met her and married her. She found out, the hard way, that trying to earn your way into a sense of self-worth and security did not work. She could not heal her inside issues with outside works, by producing sons..

Maybe you have made the same mistakes, exercised the same wrong thinking as Leah did, at some point in your life. I did. I too had to learn that, having suffered from rejection and lack of love, I could never find the love and acceptance I really needed from working at it or earning it through outside (sexual) relationships.

Leah, after giving him six sons, still found that her love and acceptance would never come from Jacob. But, she did find that she was highly favored, loved and totally accepted by God. She learned, as I also did in my life after many failed relationships, that only God can heal the broken hearted and wounded (Psalms 147:3).

Beloved friends, learn from Leah's story, and from mine. Only God can fill that void in us that has made us feel unimportant, shunned and desperate for love and acceptance. Only He can put the confidence of His unconditional love and acceptance inside us – there is nothing we can do in our own power to gain that love so desperately desired (Zechariah 4:6).

Today is the day to stop looking for a fix from the outside and begin to draw near to your "Abba" Father God, who longs to help you, heal you, and give you the love you so seek.

If you need support in the Word, and want a friend to help you walk through this time of discovery of God's love, we're here for you. Join us every 2nd and 4th Monday for our *Covenant House of Love* no-cost support, counseling group that gathers from 7pm – 8:30pm at 940 Speer Blvd., Denver.

Know you are unconditionally loved and totally accepted by your Father God, through His Son who gave His life for you. When you have given Him your heart you can rest assured that you are accepted by God the Father, our Lord Jesus Christ, and His Holy Spirit, and are a much-loved son or daughter in His family.