

A Son is Given

Genesis 30:22-26

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+30%3A22-26&version=NIV>

“She named him Joseph, and said, May the Lord add to me another son.” (vs. 24)

As we leave behind the story of Esther and the Jews of Susa, we turn to Joseph. I suspect that for many of us, much of Joseph’s story is familiar. Yet, as we reacquaint ourselves with this remarkable man, I also suspect we will come across things we don’t recall about Joseph.

It is through Joseph that God’s people end up in Egypt where they will eventually be enslaved until Moses and Aaron are called by God to lead them to freedom. Joseph’s birth story is short yet remarkable. His father Jacob has two wives, sisters Leah and Rachel. Jacob loves Rachel and had worked for 14 years to earn her hand in marriage. He provides and cares for Leah whom he was tricked into marrying, but does not love her. God cares for both of these women. Leah is not loved by Jacob like Rachel, but she is able to bear Jacob many sons while Rachel remains barren. Rachel cries out to God asking for a child and in Genesis 30 we are told that God remembered Rachel and this woman who was considered barren gives birth to a baby boy whom she names Joseph because God has taken away her disgrace.

I find it interesting that the scripture says God remembered Rachel as if he had forgotten her. In truth, God had not forgotten Rachel at all. God was at work in her lives and the life of her family. It may have felt and seemed to Rachel that God had abandoned her or that God favored her sister more. In our own lives and discipleship, we experience moments, days, and sometimes years where it feels like God has forgotten us. Often in such times, things are not going according to our wants/wills/plans. Yet the truth is this-God is still at work. Sometimes we don’t see it because we are blinded by our own ambitions and we often do not understand it because God’s ways are not our ways. I wonder if Jacob, old and blessing his grandchildren in the land of Egypt was able to look back to the time of Rachel’s barrenness and recognize that God was working in their waiting. Wherever you are on this day and whatever you are in the middle of remember this, God has not forgotten you and God is at work in your life.