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**Sermon on Genesis 31:1-16**

**Theme: If we are away from Home, God is with Us**

**Introduction**

Have you ever lived or worked in a foreign land? Have you ever been in a situation where you feel, that I wish I was home? Have you ever been accused because you are not part of the people? Have been in a position where you feel that I wish I could do something if given an opportunity? Jacob was once in the same situation. He lived and worked in the land which was not his native land, and all these questions applied to his life. Despite all this God was with him, and he lived a just and Peaceful life.

**As aliens we live in a world full of accusations, despite God's blessings for us.**

The text we have read open by saying Jacob heard that the sons of Laban saying "Jacob has taken everything our father owned". In other words they said Jacob had stolen all of our fathers wealthy. If we read back in Chapter 30 from verse 25, Jacob requested to depart from Laban to go back to his People and Land of his father. Laban refused and begged him to stay upon realizing that he is all wealthy because God was blessing Jacob. They later agreed that Jacob was to continue working for Laban; the wages for Jacob would be every speckled or spotted and dark coloured sheep as well as the goats. God blessed Jacob and most of the sheep and the goats were born dark coloured, speckled or spotted. It wasn't that Jacob had taken by force or had stolen, but it was an agreement between Jacob and Laban. The statements of Laban's sons were not true, but they accused everything on Jacob. Jacob is being accused even though he is faithful, thus the world we live in as aliens, As Christians we have been accused of our Faith and

belief, the intellectual arguments against Christianity include the suppositions that it is a faith of violence, corruption, superstition, polytheism and prejudice. As we live in this world we are accused, but God is with us. We are to pray for God's blessings to this world despite what the world might see in us. We can notice that Laban's attitude towards Jacob had also changed; in the world that we live in, is a world full of accusations, and people who change their attitude towards us. The world attitude towards Christianity is changing.

### **The World attitude might Change but God is Always with us.**

If we read back in the previous chapters of the book of Genesis, we will see that the good relationship between Laban and Jacob, it was so because Jacob could respond to all the injustices in peace, he could find a better way of having peace with Laban, and Laban benefited a lot from the relationship. Laban's consultation through divination he was told that he is being blessed through Jacob. So Laban because he was benefiting he did not want to release Jacob, but when Jacob Approached Laban, saying that he wants to go to the land of his fathers, Laban begged Jacob to stay. But Jacob was advancing in age and wanted to have a life of his own, they agreed on the wages of Jacob, that all the speckled dark coloured or spotted will be Jacob wages, God blessed Jacob numerously. This made Laban's attitude toward Jacob to change and be envy. The treatment was not as it was in the beginning; Jacob explained this to his wives and Children. But he says above all God was with me.

The History tells us that in the centuries ago Christianity was the measure of life, it dominated in almost all aspects of life, but as the years gone by, the world started to change its attitude towards Christianity. Today in most of the countries it is an offence to share the Gospel of Jesus in public. We cannot even nurture our Children in a Christian way, they have the rights to choose their faith, the world has changed its attitude towards us, but above all God is with us.

### **Despite all the Challenges God is with us he will lead us home**

Jacob was surrounded with Anger, hatred, and injustice, Jacob on Verse 6 mentioned to his Wives and Children that Laban has cheated on me ten times, but

God blessed exceedingly me. Jacob was faithful on his work to Laban, his response was a response of peace, and God could not allow Laban to harm Jacob. God tells Jacob that, go to the land of your fathers, and move out from this land. In the initial part Jacob wanted to Move out but he later negotiated with Laban, but now it's God calling him out of this land, now he will move at God's instruction and command. In the world we are living today it's a world full of angry people, and hatred it's the order of the day, some of us we experience injustice in a number of ways. But God is calling us in Jesus Christ come you all who are weary and burdened I will give you rest. We have nowhere to turn to but if we turn to God his goodness and mercy will follow us till all the days of our lives. What can we contribute to the World full of injustice and hatred?

### **We can contribute to Peace and Justice**

Jacob in everything he responded in peace and in fear of the Lord, we are to respond to the world in a peaceful manner, Christians we must be agencies of Justice, we must practice justice wherever we are, if the world does not know justice they must learn from us, if the world does not know peace they must learn from us. Jesus in Matthew 5:13-16 said you are the light and salt of the world; We are here to give the world a better taste; we are here to give the world a light. When Jacob moved in the house of Laban, he became the light and Laban was blessed because of Jacob. If we are faithful to God the world can be blessed through us. As aliens we can be agencies of peace and justice.

### **In Conclusion**

Even if we feel that we are away from home God is with us, even if we wish to be home, we can make this world a better home by preaching peace and justice amidst hatred and injustice. Let it be our duty we can contribute much to this world Jesus said blessed are the peace makers for they shall be called children of God. Mathew 5:9 It is my wish and a wish of everyone to be a child of God. We are here for a purpose and God is with us. Be blessed and always be a blessing.

**Amen.**