

# I HAVE LEARNED BY EXPERIENCE GENESIS 30

Text: Genesis 30:27

## **Genesis 30:27**

<sup>27</sup> And Laban said unto him, I pray thee, if I have found favour in thine eyes, *tarry: for* I have learned by experience that the LORD hath blessed me for thy sake.

Introduction:

Jacob has served in Laban's house for some time (at least up to this point 14 years for his two wives). God has abundantly blessed Laban because of Jacob. Jacob was aware of this and he reminded Laban of it in verse 30.

Laban had learned by experience. Have you ever stopped to consider the many things that one learns by experience -- learn a fire is hot by experience; child learns how to walk by experience; learn how to ride a bike by experience; ladies learn how to cook, sew, iron, and change dirty diapers by experience; and men learn how to pretend they are busy when the baby has a dirty diaper.

Experience teaches is all walks of life. We learn where and where not to eat by experience. We learn that you cannot always judge a book by its cover by experience. We learn by experience that you never make a boast as, "I will do that."

Ponder the occupations that are learned by experience: carpentry, electrician, mechanic, welder, and plumber. I have learned as many of you have by experience that weight is easier put on than taken off. I have learned as many others have how sensitive a lady is about her age.

Experience is a good teacher. Oftentimes the lessons that it teaches are hard and difficult, but they are usually lessons that are not soon forgotten.

This morning I want to share with you some spiritual lessons that I have learned by experience---lessons that the Bible teaches but that I have learned through experience.

#### 1. I Have Learned By Experience That Salvation Is Great

- Gloriously saved ..... truth is anybody who gets saved is saved gloriously
- Gracious saved.....truth is anybody who gets saved is saved graciously

"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation..?"

- Great in its content
- Great in its extent
- Great in its intent

Many attempt to earn it in spite of what the Bible says.

(Eph 2:8-9) "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: {9} Not of works, lest any man should boast."

(Titus 3:5) "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

A. Condition of man makes great salvation a necessity (Romans 3:23)

(Rom 3:23) "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

B. Certainty of death makes great salvation a priority (Romans 6:23, Proverbs 27:1)

(Rom 6:23) "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

(Prov 27:1) "Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."

Illustration:

A well known went to see his physician and the physician's diagnosis was that he was terminally ill. Mr. Huston's replied, "Doc, all humanity is terminally ill."

C. Calvary makes great salvation a possibility.

D. Coming to Christ by faith makes great salvation a reality

(John 5:40) "And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life."

(Rev 22:17) "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

Illustration:

I read recently about a surgeon who sat beside a young boy's bed as he talked to his parents about the next day's surgery. "Tomorrow morning," the doctor began,

"I'll open up your heart...." Before he could finish the boy interrupted and said, "You will find Jesus there."

The surgeon looked up annoyed and continued, "I will observe the damage that has been done when I get to the opened heart."

Again the boy interrupted, "You will find Jesus there, when you open up my heart."

The surgeon was physically tired and mentally tired of the lad's interruptions and replied, "I will find out if I can make you well when I open up your heart."

"But doctor, you will find Jesus there too, He lives there," the lad stated again.

With the lad's final words, the surgeon then left the room.

The next morning after surgery the doctor returned to his office and recorded his notes from the surgery.

"Damaged aorta damaged pulmonary vein, widespread muscle degeneration. No hope for transplant, no hope for a cure." He stopped the recorder, "Why, why did God do this to this little lad? God has cursed him to an early death. Why?"

The Lord answered and said, "The boy, my lamb was not meant to be here long. He is soon going to be with

me and will be comforted as you cannot imagine. His parents will one day join him."

The surgeon is now crying and his anger is growing, "You created that boy, and you created that heart. He'll be dead in a few months, and there is nothing I can do about it. Why?"

The Lord seemed to answer again, "The boy, my lamb shall return to me the Great Shepherd because he has done his duty. His death will not be wasted; for through it I will retrieve another lost lamb."

The surgeon put his face in his hand and wept. Later that afternoon the surgeon said beside the boy's bed and again his parents sat across from him. The boy looked up at the physician and asked, "Did you cut open my heart?"

"Yes," said the surgeon.

"What did you find?" eagerly asked the lad.

"I found Jesus there," said the surgeon rejoicing.

You can find Jesus to if you trust his work on Calvary with your heart.

2. I Have Learned By Experience That Sin Is Grievous

(Prov 13:15) "Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard."

(Num 32:23) "But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out."

#### A. Sin will bring reckoning

(Eccl 12:14) "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

#### B. Sin will bring regret

- Sin takes you farther than you want to go
- Sin keeps you longer than you want to stay
- Sin costs you more than you want to pay

Illustration:

Once an inquiring reporter stopped at the courthouse steps to talk to a wrinkled patriarch. He noticed that the aged man had no glasses, no hearing aid, and evidently had all of his original teeth.

"To what do you attribute your remarkable good health, sir?" asked the reporter.

"To the fact that I drink a pint of liquor a day, smoke three packages of cigarettes a day, and never go to bed before 2 a.m.," answered the wrinkled patriarch.

"That is remarkable, sir, and just how old are you?"

"Twenty-three."

### 3. I Have Learned By Experience That Serenity Can Be Governed.

Most of humanity wants peace...but peace of mind does not come while feeding on the filth and the garbage of this world. Peace with God comes through salvation; peace of God comes through meditation and supplication.

#### A. Meditation (serenity through precepts)

(Psa 119:165) "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them."

1. Blessing comes to those who hear and heed the Word of God.
  2. Peace of mind comes through feeding on the eternal Word of God.
- Cleansing effect (Psalm 119:9)



(Psa 119:9) "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word."

- Correcting effect

A baker brought bricks of butter from a farmer, but he felt he wasn't getting a full pound for his money. He had them checked, and they were short weighted. The farmer was arrested.

When the farmer stood before the judge to answer the charges of whether he had any scales or not, He stated he did but that he used the one-pound loaf of bread which he purchases from the baker as his weight.

Many today don't allow the Word of God to correct them or be the standard; they just judge themselves by others, and this is a false measure.

- Comforting effect

(Psa 119:50) "This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me."

(1 Th 4:18) "Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

## B. Supplication (serenity through prayer)

(Phil 4:6-7) "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. {7} And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

### 4. I Have Learned By Experience That the Sanctuary Is Grand

I am talking about the church. We hear so often, about what is wrong with the church; it is time we hear what is right with the church.

A. Has grand foundation

B. Has grand fellowship -- blood washed children of God (Hebrews 10:25)

(Heb 10:25) "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Illustration:

Three pastors got together for coffee one day and found all their churches had bat-infestation problems.

"I got so mad," said one, "I took a shotgun and fired at them. It made holes in the ceiling, but did nothing to the bats."

"I tried trapping them alive," said the second. "Then I drove 50 miles before releasing them, but they beat me back to the church."

"I haven't had any more problems," said the third.

"What did you do?" asked the others, amazed.

"I simply baptized and voted them in." he replied. "I haven't seen them since."

Illustration:

An old man walked to church every Sunday morning. A stranger asked him loudly, "Why do you continue to go to church? Soon you will not be able hear the sermon as you are gradually going deaf."

The old man answered, "Yes, each week I can hear less and less, but I can let my neighbors know whose side I on."

C. Has grand function - Preach the Gospel

D. Has grand future

## 5. I Have Learned By Experience That the Savior Is Good

(Psa 34:8) "O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him."

You truly only know that God is good by experience.

(Nahum 1:7) "The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him."

(Psa 25:8) "Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way."

(Psa 119:68) "Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes."

(Psa 107:8) "Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!"

A. God is good to provide

B. God is good to protect

C. God is good to preserve

(Jude 1:24) "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,"

## D. God is good to promote

(1 Th 4:13-18) "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. {14} For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. {15} For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. {16} For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: {17} Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. {18} Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

## 6. I Have Learned By Experience That Satan Is Full Of Guile

"Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field." - Master of deception

A. Attempt to discredit the Word of God

B. Attempt to doubt the wisdom of God

C. Attempt to discourage in the work of God

## D. Attempt to divide the workers of God

Illustration:

A fisherman could not swim, but he hooked a big one. In his excitement, he fell into the water. "Help, " he cried to his fellow fisherman.

His friend caught him by the hair, but his wig came off. He grabbed his arm. It was artificial and it came off as well. "How can I help you?" he asked, "if you will not stick together?"

Churches are perishing today simply because they will not stick together. United we stand divided we fall;

## E. Attempt to deaden the worship of God

## F. Attempt to distract in the way of God

1. By pretenders

2. By procrastination

7. I Have Learned By Experience That Suffering Is Guaranteed

(Phil 1:29) "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;"

- Suffering should not be a problem over which we grumble, but a privilege in which to glory.

(1 Pet 4:14-16) "If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. {15} But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. {16} Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf."

Three types of suffering

A. Common sufferings

B. Carnal suffering --murder, thief, evildoer, or a busybody

C. Christian suffering that I experience simply because I am a Christian

8. I Have Learned By Experience Of The Sufficiency Of Grace

(2 Cor 12:9) "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

Notice:

A. Difficulty here (7,8)

(2 Cor 12:7-8) "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. {8} For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me."

1. Pressure which seemed unhelpful
2. Prayer which seemed unheard

B. Discovery here (9)

(2 Cor 12:9) "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

Sufficiency of grace (ample and adequate)

1. Grace is personal
2. Grace is plentiful
3. Grace is punctual



Grace is sufficient to:

1. Save
2. Serve
3. Suffer.

C. Doxology here (glory or praise) (10)

(2 Cor 12:10) "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

Conclusion:

What have you learned from experience? My grandfather used to tell me certain things that he had experienced and then he would conclude as he so often did with the following comment, "Words to the wise are sufficient."

Will you heed from the things I have learned from experience?