



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 010: Cheater Gets Cheated Genesis 29-30

Jesus' Golden Rule ("Do unto others what you would have them do to you") has a flip-side that is sometimes called "kharma" or "what goes around comes around". If you do something evil against someone, don't be surprised if the same evil is done to you someday. Jacob cheated Esau twice, now it was his turn to be cheated twice. He cheated his own brother, now his uncle will cheat him.

- Describe times when you have seen someone suffer the same sin he inflicted on someone else before?
- Was that effective in bringing him to realize what he had done? Why or why not?
- How often do you stop to use the Golden rule or its flip-side before you say or do something to someone else?
- How would it improve your life to use our Lord's advice?

Throughout the time that Jacob was being cheated he never seemed to stop and realize he was getting his just rewards. Yet God faithfully kept His promise to Jacob and even foiled every attempt by Laban to cheat Jacob out of his flocks and herds.

- When have other people taken advantage of you the way Laban took advantage of Jacob?
- If you decided to seek your own revenge what happened?
- If you left it in God's hands, how did it turn out?
- What reassurance does it give you to know the Lord is watching over you to work all things out for your good- even the evil others are using against you?
- How can you be sure things won't just get worse for you if you don't retaliate but leave it up to God to work it out for you?

In 1 Peter 2:23 we read of Jesus, "When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly." Jesus had every right and every reason to lash out at those who sinned against Him, but in meekness He stood in our place and suffered the punishment we deserve for all our sins. By His death we have forgiveness and eternal life.

- Is it ever right to stand up for yourself or others? When is it proper and when isn't it?