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MINISTRIES

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Parashah Points: Vayetze – Rejoice With Those Who Rejoice

Welcome to another episode of Parashah Points—short thoughts from the weekly Torah Portion.

This week’s Parashah Point comes from Vayetze, which is Hebrew for “and he left,” and it goes from Genesis 28:10 to Genesis 32:2.

This parashah begins with the story of Jacob settling at Bethel where he fell asleep and had a supernatural encounter with the Lord in his dreams (Genesis 28:10-22).

It also tells the story of Jacob working for Laban and marrying Rachel and Leah (Genesis 29).

We learn about the birth of Jacob’s children and Jacob prospering at Laban’s expense (Genesis 30).

The parashah concludes with the story of Jacob and his family fleeing from Laban (Genesis 31).

There’s a lot we can talk about in this Torah Portion. Today we’re going to talk a little about jealousy.

In chapters 30 and 31 of Genesis, we read about how, despite Laban’s attempts to cheat him, God blessed Jacob and gave him great success. Jacob’s success led to Laban’s attitude toward him turning into jealousy and resentment.

Genesis 31:1-2

Now Jacob heard that the sons of Laban were saying, “Jacob has taken all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has gained all this wealth.” And Jacob saw that Laban did not regard him with favor as before.

People generally love success, recognition, and praise—just so long as it’s being directed toward *them*!

But how often do we, like Laban, get jealous over someone else’s success? Maybe a co-worker receives that promotion or recognition that we wanted for ourselves. We can become bitter, and like Laban, even try to undermine them in an attempt to build ourselves up.

Believe it or not, this can even occur in ministry. Some people will get upset and jealous that God uses others to minister in areas that *they* want to minister in. Some even get jealous of the influence and success that other ministries have because they think it ought to be *them* in that position of influence.

Such times are when you know that “ministry” has become about you instead of building God’s kingdom, which renders the work you are doing useless. God shares His glory with nobody.

The Bible instructs us not to get jealous over the success of others but to “rejoice with those who rejoice” (Romans 12:15). It also says that if one member of the body of Messiah is honored, we are all to rejoice together (1 Corinthians 12:26).

Why are we instructed to be happy for others in their success? Because ultimately it’s God who blesses, prospers, and gives success:

Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—**this is the gift of God**. For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

Jealousy and resentment toward others for their success is covetousness, which breaks the tenth commandment. It’s questioning God’s sovereign wisdom to bless whom He chooses to bless. That is not a good place to be.

Life is much happier when we rejoice with those who rejoice. Even if we’re personally not the ones being recognized, it is much better than being miserable and bitter.

Thank you for joining us for another Parashah Point!

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching.

Remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom!

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Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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