

**Scriptures: July 30, 2023**  
**Genesis 29:15-28 (NRSV)**

**Jacob Marries Laban's Daughters**

<sup>15</sup> Then Laban said to Jacob, 'Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?' <sup>16</sup> Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. <sup>17</sup> Leah's eyes were lovely,<sup>[a]</sup> and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. <sup>18</sup> Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, 'I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.' <sup>19</sup> Laban said, 'It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.' <sup>20</sup> So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

<sup>21</sup> Then Jacob said to Laban, 'Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.' <sup>22</sup> So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. <sup>23</sup> But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. <sup>24</sup> (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) <sup>25</sup> When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, 'What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?' <sup>26</sup> Laban said, 'This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. <sup>27</sup> Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me for another seven years.' <sup>28</sup> Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

## **Gospel Matthew 13:31-33 (NRSV)**

### **The Parable of the Mustard Seed**

<sup>31</sup> He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup> it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

### **The Parable of the Yeast**

<sup>33</sup> He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with<sup>[a]</sup> three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

## **Matthew 13:44-52 (NRSV)**

### **Three Parables**

<sup>44</sup> 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup> 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup> on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup> 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup> when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup> So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the

righteous <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

### **Treasures New and Old**

<sup>51</sup> 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' <sup>52</sup> And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'