Introduction: Many “minor characters” in the Bible, this is one of them. When I mention Jacob who comes to your mind? Joseph, His twelve sons, Rachel, probably even Laban comes before Leah. But we know a good deal about Leah.

**I) Background**

**A) God’s promise to Abraham**

1. The land of Canaan, a great nation, and through His seed all the nations to be blessed.

2. Given to Isaac and eventually to Jacob.

**Genesis 28:14 "Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**

**B) Isaac doesn’t want Jacob to marry a Canaanite woman.**

1. Jacob goes to Padan Aram (Haran)

2. In order to find a wife.

**II) The Events Two Sisters – Leah and Rachel**

**Genesis 29:9 Now while he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess.**

**Genesis 29:16 Now Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. 17 Leah's eyes were delicate, but Rachel was beautiful of form and appearance.**

**A) Rachel the beautiful sister**

1. Rachel would have been the one’s the boys would have noticed walking down the hallway.

2. Leah would have been the sister the boys would have approached to get Rachel’s number.

3. Could not of been easy to have been the other sister.

**B) Jacob agrees to work seven years for Rachel**

**Genesis 29:18 Now Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter."**

1. Shows patience, commitment, and how much he loved Rachel.

2. What do you think Leah, the older sister, was thinking during those seven years?

**C) Leah given to Jacob by deceit.**

**Genesis 29:23 Now it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. 24 And Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah as a maid. 25 So it came to pass in the morning, that behold, it was Leah. And he said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served you? Why then have you deceived me?"**

1.Leah was not asked if she wanted to marry Jacob.

2. How do you think Leah felt about this arrangement?

3. How do you think Leah felt the next morning?

a. Her husband obviously not wanting her.

b. Him willing to work another seven years for Rachel.

**Genesis 29:30 Then Jacob also went in to Rachel, and he also loved Rachel more than Leah. And he served with Laban still another seven years.**

**D) The Lord blesses Leah**

**Genesis 29:31 When the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, He opened her womb; but Rachel was barren.**

1. Leah would have children and Rachel, at this point, would not.

2. Children were important, highly valued, socially making Leah more important than Rachel.

**E) Creates strife and jealousy between the two sisters.**

1. Leah having children creates problems between Rachel and Jacob.

**Genesis 30:1 Now when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister, and said to Jacob, "Give me children, or else I die!" 2 And Jacob's anger was aroused against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?"**

2. Rachel gives her handmaid to Jacob to have “her” children. V. 3

3. Not to be out done, eventually Leah gives her handmaid to Jacob.

4. Gets to the point Leah purchases Jacob for a night.

**Genesis 30:14 Now Reuben went in the days of wheat harvest and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them to his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes." 15 But she said to her, "Is it a small matter that you have taken away my husband? Would you take away my son's mandrakes also?" And Rachel said, "Therefore he will lie with you tonight for your son's mandrakes." 16 When Jacob came out of the field in the evening, Leah went out to meet him and said, "You must come in to me, for I have surely hired you with my son's mandrakes." And he lay with her that night.**

**F) Leah’s children**

1. Reuben - **Genesis 29:32 So Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben; for she said, "The LORD has surely looked on my affliction. Now therefore, my husband will love me."**

2. Simeon - **Genesis 29:33 Then she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Because the LORD has heard that I am unloved, He has therefore given me this son also." And she called his name Simeon**.

3. Levi - **Genesis 29:34 She conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Now this time my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." Therefore his name was called Levi**.

4. Judah - **Genesis 29:35 And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Now I will praise the LORD." Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she stopped bearing.**

5. Issachar - **Genesis 30:18 Leah said, "God has given me my wages, because I have given my maid to my husband." So she called his name Issachar**.

6. Zebulun - **Genesis 30:19 Then Leah conceived again and bore Jacob a sixth son. 20 And Leah said, "God has endowed me with a good endowment; now my husband will dwell with me, because I have borne him six sons." So she called his name Zebulun.**

7. Dinah - **Genesis 30:21 Afterward she bore a daughter, and called her name Dinah.**

**F) Even the time of Leah’s death is unknown.**

1. Rachel’s death is recorded in **Genesis 35.19** and Leah’s is mentioned in **Genesis 49.31**

2. Even in death it seems like Leah was second to Rachel.

**III) Lessons**

**A) Don’t look and judge by outward appearances.**

1. God’s instructions to Samuel in looking for another King .

**1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."**

2. Don’t be shallow in your assessment of people.

**2 Corinthians 10:7a Do you look at things according to the outward appearance?**

**B) Leah prayed to God and He answered her prayers.**

**Genesis 30:17 And God listened to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son.**

1. When difficult circumstances arise remember to pray.

2. We may find ourselves in trying times, don’t forget God.

**C) Look who came from Leah**

1. Through Levi-

a. Moses – law giver, delivered, leader, prophet of God.

b. Priesthood- Aaron and his lineage.

c. The rest served God in one capacity or another.

2. Judah- King David, and Jesus our Savior.

**D) God looks at the heart.**

1. Keep your heart pure before God.

Conclusion: Perhaps not a typical Mother’s Day lesson but Leah was a mother who God used.