

*Daily devotions for 2019*



**Day 5**  
Genesis, part 5

## **Doubts**

*Genesis chapters 17-35*

In our Christian life and walk, we can sometimes doubt whether we are 'good enough'. Well, rest assured, except through Christ we can't be. Looking through Genesis Chapters 17-35, there are multiple stories and instances of people and families who we would consider as 'failing', being deceitful, dishonest and scheming. Yet God is in their situations.

In many ways, this is no different to how things appear today – images of modern life.

For example:

Chapter 19: Both daughters of Lot conspired to sleep with him, their own father, in order to preserve their family line.

Chapter 20: It is revealed that Abraham, though married to Sarah, is Sarah's half brother.

Chapter 21: Abraham, not trusting God, slept with Hagar his servant in order to produce offspring (Ishmael).

Chapter 25: Isaac and Rebekah, produced two sons, Esau and Jacob. Isaac loved Esau, while Rebekah loved Jacob; later this was to prove divisive.

Chapter 26: Esau married Judith and also Basemath - they were a source of grief to Isaac and Rebekah.

Chapter 27: Rebekah conspired with Jacob to deceive Isaac to give Jacob the blessing intended for his brother Esau. The result: Esau held a grudge against Jacob, planning to kill him.

Chapter 29: Jacob married two women, Leah and Rachel. Leah gave birth to two children, and Rachel became jealous and filled with anger. As Rachel was incapable of bearing children, she gave her servant Bilhah to Jacob and encouraged him to sleep with Bilhah in order to raise children for Rachel. When Leah stopped having children, she gave her maidservant Zilpah to Jacob as a wife, in turn raising a further two children.

What is quite amazing, is that within our capacity to understand the actions of God, He has used and continues to use broken people who have fractured relationships and blesses them and their nations.

## **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, as You look down on your creation, one that was perfect but has become marred by the actions of mankind, we thank You for your provision and patience. We readily admit our failings, painfully aware of our thoughtlessness, our scheming and our appetite to deceive and divide.

We pray for forgiveness, and ask for your Spirit of renewal that we may become Christ like in character, living in love with our fellow man. Gracious Father, bless us in Jesus name, we pray. Amen.