

IT'S COMPLICATED

Part 2: Great and Not So Great Expectations

PRESSURE IMPACTS RELATIONSHIPS

A. External Pressures (Not Controllable)

1. Sickness
2. Negative events (storms, accidents, financial loss, career changes)

B. Internal pressures (manageable)

1. Different goals / direction
2. Strife / difficult communication
3. Unrealistic / unmet expectations (***Proverbs 19:3 NLT***)
4. There is a right expectation we can have toward God (***Psalm 62:5-6 NKJV***)

TWO WIVES; ONE HUSBAND AND A LOT OF HURT (*Genesis 29:31-30:2 NKJV*)

A. Unloved and unrealistic

1. Leah suffered the pain of being rejected
2. She believed that having sons would cause Jacob to love her

B. Well loved but unrealistic

1. Rachel was jealous of her sister - even though she was the obvious favorite
2. She put unrealistic pressure on Jacob - asking him to do what only God could do

C. Leah was able to get to a good place

1. The fourth son revealed a change in her expectations

RECALIBRATING OUR EXPECTATIONS

A. Start with examining yourself

1. Are my expectations realistic - they vary according to the scope of the relationship
2. Where do my expectations come from? (***Philippians 2:20-21 NLT***)

B. When it comes to expectations communicate clearly (***1 Corinthians 14:8 NLT***)

1. The clearer expectations are stated the less opportunity for hurt and confusion
2. Be early and honest
3. Understand the front side risk of clear expectations

C. The place we want to get to - Looking to the Lord before people (***2 Timothy 4:14-18 NKJ***)

1. Paul could have been angry and hurt at the lack of support
2. Paul leaned on his relationship with the Lord