



Speak the Word Church
International
Women's Bible Study
March 5th 2021 6:30-8:00pm
Online

THE POWER OF RECIPROCITY PART 2



GOALS & KEY CONCEPTS:

- To have a biblical view of reciprocity based on biblical scriptural references.
- To understand how reciprocity impacts your personal life and the results that you currently have in your life.
- To help women understand the power of their relational investments, mutuality and sharing with others.
- To restore women to a godly sense of reciprocity.

DEFINITION: WHAT DOES RECIPROCITY MEAN?

- It is the quality or state of being reciprocal: mutual dependence, action, or influence.
- A mutual exchange of privileges.
- It is the concept of sharing, having similar feelings or being “shown by both sides”, as in “shared in common”.

A. Questions of Reciprocity

Relationship	What type of relationship is it?
Exchange	What is the exchange in the relationship?
Communication	What is the communication and how is it happening?
Investment	What is the investment? What is the divestment?
Problem	What is the problem?
Responsibility	Who is responsible for the relationship? What are the responsibilities?
Care	How are you being cared for in the relationship?
Attitude	What are the attitudes that impact the reciprocity of the relationship?
Time	How has time impacted the relationship? How long has it been?
Effort	How much effort is being given? What is the return?

B. Women in the Bible with Reciprocity - REVIEW

I. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD

Genesis 30:1-23 The Life of Leah – Continues

30 When Rachel saw that she wasn't having any children for Jacob, she became jealous of her sister. She pleaded with Jacob, "Give me children, or I'll die!"

2 Then Jacob became furious with Rachel. "Am I God?" he asked. "He's the one who has kept you from having children!"

3 Then Rachel told him, "Take my maid, Bilhah, and sleep with her. She will bear children for me,^[a] and through her I can have a family, too." 4 So Rachel gave her servant, Bilhah, to Jacob as a wife, and he slept with her. 5 Bilhah became pregnant and presented him with a son. 6 Rachel named him Dan,^[b] for she said, "God has vindicated me! He has heard my request and given me a son." 7 Then Bilhah became pregnant again and gave Jacob a second son. 8 Rachel named him Naphtali,^[c] for she said, "I have struggled hard with my sister, and I'm winning!"

⁹ Meanwhile, Leah realized that she wasn't getting pregnant anymore, so she took her servant, Zilpah, and gave her to Jacob as a wife. ¹⁰ Soon Zilpah presented him with a son. ¹¹ Leah named him Gad,^[a] for she said, "How fortunate I am!" ¹² Then Zilpah gave Jacob a second son. ¹³ And Leah named him Asher,^[a] for she said, "What joy is mine! Now the other women will celebrate with me."

¹⁴ One day during the wheat harvest, Reuben found some mandrakes growing in a field and brought them to his mother, Leah. Rachel begged Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes."

¹⁵ But Leah angrily replied, "Wasn't it enough that you stole my husband? Now will you steal my son's mandrakes, too?"

Rachel answered, "I will let Jacob sleep with you tonight if you give me some of the mandrakes."

¹⁶ So that evening, as Jacob was coming home from the fields, Leah went out to meet him. "You must come and sleep with me tonight!" she said. "I have paid for you with some mandrakes that my son found." So that night he slept with Leah. ¹⁷ And God answered Leah's prayers. She became pregnant again and gave birth to a fifth son for Jacob. ¹⁸ She named him Issachar,^[a] for she said, "God has rewarded me for giving my servant to my husband as a wife." ¹⁹ Then Leah became pregnant again and gave birth to a sixth son for Jacob. ²⁰ She named him Zebulun,^[a] for she said, "God has given me a good reward. Now my husband will treat me with respect, for I have given him six sons." ²¹ Later she gave birth to a daughter and named her Dinah.

²² Then God remembered Rachel's plight and answered her prayers by enabling her to have children. ²³ She became pregnant and gave birth to a son. "God has removed my disgrace," she said. ²⁴ And she named him Joseph,^[a] for she said, "May the LORD add yet another son to my family."

Genesis 33:1-8 Then Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming with his 400 men. So he divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and his two servant wives. ² He put the servant wives and their children at the front, Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph last. ³ Then Jacob went on ahead. As he approached his brother, he bowed to the ground seven times before him. ⁴ Then Esau ran to meet him and embraced him, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him. And they both wept.

⁵ Then Esau looked at the women and children and asked, "Who are these people with you?"

"These are the children God has graciously given to me, your servant," Jacob replied. ⁶ Then the servant wives came forward with their children and bowed before him. ⁷ Next came Leah with her children, and they bowed before him. Finally, Joseph and Rachel came forward and bowed before him.

⁸ "And what were all the flocks and herds I met as I came?" Esau asked.

1. What sense of reciprocity does Leah have in her life at this point?
 - a. *Who in her life has impacted her sense of a having a shared mutual experience?*
2. What are the other questions of reciprocity that have impacted Leah's life?
 - a. *What type of relationships were in her life? What were the thoughts, emotions and behaviors of Jacob, Rachel, Bilhah, Zilpah, and Reuben?*
 - b. *What were the attitudes in these relationships that impacted her reciprocity?*
 - c. *What was the problem in her life?*
 - d. *What were the investments in her life?*
3. In Genesis 33:1-8 it appears that Jacob "put the servant wives and their children in front Leah and her children next and Rachel and Joseph last", but what does this mean in terms of the responsibilities and reciprocity in this relationship?
4. How is the next generation involved in the sense of reciprocity of this story?

DAUGHTERS OF ZELOPHEHAD

Numbers 27:1-9

27 One day a petition was presented by the daughters of Zelophehad—Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. Their father, Zelophehad, was a descendant of Hephher son of Gilead, son of Makir, son of Manasseh, son of Joseph. ² These women stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the tribal leaders, and the entire community at the entrance of the Tabernacle.³ "Our father died in the wilderness," they said. "He was not among Korah's followers, who rebelled against the LORD; he died because of his own sin. But he had no sons. ⁴ Why should the name of our father disappear from his clan just because he had no sons? Give us property along with the rest of our relatives."

⁵ So Moses brought their case before the LORD. ⁶ And the LORD replied to Moses, ⁷ "The claim of the daughters of Zelophehad is legitimate. You must give them a grant of land along with their father's relatives. Assign them the property that would have been given to their father."

⁸ "And give the following instructions to the people of Israel: If a man dies and has no son, then give his inheritance to his daughters. ⁹ And if he has no daughter either, transfer his inheritance to his brothers."

1. What sense of reciprocity do these daughters have?
2. How does being a woman impact their sense of reciprocity?
3. What case do you need to bring before the Lord in terms of reciprocity??

4. As a daughter of God, how has reciprocity played a role in your life?

2. BUILDING A SENSE OF RECIPROCITY

HEBREWS 6:9-19

⁹ But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner. ¹⁰ For God *is* not unjust to forget your work and ^{10a}labor of love which you have shown toward His name, *in that* you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. ¹¹ And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹² that you do not become ^{12a}sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

¹³ For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, ¹⁴ saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.” ¹⁵ And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. ¹⁶ For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation *is* for them an end of all dispute. ¹⁷ Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the ^{17a}immutability of His counsel, ^{17b}confirmed *it* by an oath, ¹⁸ that by two ^{18a}immutable things, in which it *is* impossible for God to lie, we ^{18b}might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before *us*.

¹⁹ This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the *Presence* behind the veil,

1. How do we build a sense of reciprocity in our lives as women?
2. Where is the Lord in terms of your sense of reciprocity?
3. How does this scripture relate to you?