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A Spiritual Lesson In Toon Language: Lesson
37

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(In God I Trust And Write)

Series: Looney Tunes

Episode: Fool Coverage

Topic: Bait And Switch

Introduction:

This lesson is about deception and trickery in a contract. The best scripture for the job in this case is the account of Jacob and Laban. Laban tricked Jacob into working for twenty years to have a couple of wives and some cattle. Laban tries to get out of this by giving Jacob a lady not agreed upon and by changing Jacob's wages ten times and then by trying to claim back property sold in the work belonging to Jacob. I use the Looney Tunes short [Fool Coverage](#) to explain this further as Daffy tries to deceive Porky, and even fraudulently change his policy. I show in this lesson that God is not a "bait and switch" God. We are using the entire account of Jacob and Laban because the context is absolutely needed.

Scriptures used are Genesis 29-31 and Psalms 91

I) Opening Prayer

II) Opening Discussion: Today, we are discussing a shady practice known as a “Bait and Switch” deal. What do you think the phrase “Bait And Switch” means? Do you think that you have ever been the victim of a “bait and switch”? The Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Law defines this phrase as follows:

Function: noun

: a fraudulent or deceptive sales practice in which a purchaser is attracted by advertisement of a low-priced item but then is encouraged to purchase a higher-priced one called also bait advertising

The American Heritage® Dictionary of Idioms

defines this phrase as follows:

A deceptive commercial practice in which customers are induced to visit a store by an advertised sale item and then are told that it is out of stock or that it is far inferior to some more expensive item.

In short a “Bait and Switch” deal is actually a kind or breed of scam. This may look loose at first, but, go with me on this one. I am going to show a cartoon that will shed some light on this

kind of deal. When it's over, we will have a discussion and a Bible study.

III) Cartoon Show: Fool Coverage

Cartoon Link:

http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/137/37.webm

IV) Analysis, Bible Study And Discussion:

What is the “bait and switch” deal in the cartoon Fool Coverage? How would you react if you were Porky? We are going to look at a scripture passage and we will have a discussion on the

passage linking to the cartoon. This is a little long (3 chapters), so bear with me.

The Bible States In Genesis Chapters 29-31:

Genesis 29

¹ Then Jacob continued on his journey and came to the land of the eastern peoples.

² There he saw a well in the field, with three flocks of sheep lying near it because the flocks were watered from that well. The stone over the mouth of the well was large.

³ When all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would roll the stone away from the well's mouth and water the sheep. Then they would return the stone to its place over the mouth of the well.

⁴ Jacob asked the shepherds, "My brothers, where are you from?"

"We're from Haran," they replied.

⁵ He said to them, "Do you know Laban, Nahor's grandson?"

"Yes, we know him," they answered.

⁶ Then Jacob asked them, "Is he well?"

"Yes, he is," they said, "and here comes his daughter Rachel with the sheep."

⁷ "Look," he said, "the sun is still high; it is not time for the flocks to be gathered. Water the sheep and take them back to pasture."

⁸ "We can't," they replied, "until all the flocks are gathered and the stone has been rolled away from the mouth of the well. Then we will water the sheep."

⁹ While he was still talking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess.

¹⁰ When Jacob saw Rachel daughter of Laban, his mother's brother, and Laban's sheep, he went over and rolled the stone away from the mouth of the well and watered his uncle's sheep.

¹¹ Then Jacob kissed Rachel and began to weep aloud.

¹² He had told Rachel that he was a relative of her father and a son of Rebekah. So she ran and told her father.

¹³ As soon as Laban heard the news about Jacob, his sister's son, he hurried to meet him. He embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his home, and there Jacob told him all these things.

¹⁴ Then Laban said to him, "You are my own flesh and blood." After Jacob had stayed with him for a whole month,

¹⁵ Laban said to him, "Just because you are a relative of mine, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be."

¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.

¹⁷ Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel was lovely in form, and beautiful.

¹⁸ Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, "I'll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel."

¹⁹ Laban said, "It's better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me."

²⁰ So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.

²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to lie with her."

²² So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast.

²³ But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and gave her to Jacob, and Jacob lay with her.

²⁴ And Laban gave his servant girl Zilpah to his daughter as her maidservant.

²⁵ When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived me?"

²⁶ Laban replied, "It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one.

²⁷ Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work."

²⁸ And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife.

²⁹ Laban gave his servant girl Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as her maidservant.

³⁰ Jacob lay with Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah. And he worked for Laban another seven years.

³¹ When the LORD saw that Leah was not loved, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.

³² Leah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Reuben, for she said, "It is because the LORD has seen my misery. Surely my husband will love me now."

³³ She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "Because the LORD heard that

I am not loved, he gave me this one too." So she named him Simeon.

³⁴ Again she conceived, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "Now at last my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." So he was named Levi.

³⁵ She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "This time I will praise the LORD." So she named him Judah. Then she stopped having children.

Genesis 30

¹ When Rachel saw that she was not bearing Jacob any children, she became jealous of her sister. So she said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I'll die!"

² Jacob became angry with her and said, "Am I in the place of God, who has kept you from having children?"

³ Then she said, "Here is Bilhah, my maidservant. Sleep with her so that she can bear

children for me and that through her I too can build a family."

⁴ So she gave him her servant Bilhah as a wife.

Jacob slept with her,

⁵ and she became pregnant and bore him a son.

⁶ Then Rachel said, "God has vindicated me; he has listened to my plea and given me a son."

Because of this she named him Dan.

⁷ Rachel's servant Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son.

⁸ Then Rachel said, "I have had a great struggle with my sister, and I have won." So she named him Naphtali.

⁹ When Leah saw that she had stopped having children, she took her maidservant Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife.

¹⁰ Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a son.

¹¹ Then Leah said, "What good fortune!" So she named him Gad.

¹² Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a second son.

¹³ Then Leah said, "How happy I am! The women will call me happy." So she named him Asher.

¹⁴ During wheat harvest, Reuben went out into the fields and found some mandrake plants, which he brought to his mother Leah. Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes."

¹⁵ But she said to her, "Wasn't it enough that you took away my husband? Will you take my son's mandrakes too?"

"Very well," Rachel said, "he can sleep with you tonight in return for your son's mandrakes."

¹⁶ So when Jacob came in from the fields that evening, Leah went out to meet him. "You must sleep with me," she said. "I have hired you with my son's mandrakes." So he slept with her that night.

¹⁷ God listened to Leah, and she became pregnant and bore Jacob a fifth son.

¹⁸ Then Leah said, "God has rewarded me for giving my maidservant to my husband." So she named him Issachar.

¹⁹ Leah conceived again and bore Jacob a sixth son.

²⁰ Then Leah said, "God has presented me with a precious gift. This time my husband will treat me with honor, because I have borne him six sons." So she named him Zebulun.

²¹ Some time later she gave birth to a daughter and named her Dinah.

²² Then God remembered Rachel; he listened to her and opened her womb. ²³ She became pregnant and gave birth to a son and said, "God has taken away my disgrace." ²⁴ She named him Joseph, and said, "May the LORD add to me another son."

²⁵ After Rachel gave birth to Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, "Send me on my way so I can go back to my own homeland."

²⁶ Give me my wives and children, for whom I have served you, and I will be on my way. You know how much work I've done for you."

²⁷ But Laban said to him, "If I have found favor in your eyes, please stay. I have learned by divination that the LORD has blessed me because of you."

²⁸ He added, "Name your wages, and I will pay them."

²⁹ Jacob said to him, "You know how I have worked for you and how your livestock has fared under my care.

³⁰ The little you had before I came has increased greatly, and the LORD has blessed you wherever I have been. But now, when may I do something for my own household?"

³¹ "What shall I give you?" he asked.

"Don't give me anything," Jacob replied. "But if you will do this one thing for me, I will go on tending your flocks and watching over them:

³² Let me go through all your flocks today and remove from them every speckled or spotted sheep, every dark-colored lamb and every spotted or speckled goat. They will be my wages.

³³ And my honesty will testify for me in the future, whenever you check on the wages you have paid me. Any goat in my possession that is not speckled or spotted, or any lamb that is not dark-colored, will be considered stolen."

³⁴ "Agreed," said Laban. "Let it be as you have said."

³⁵ That same day he removed all the male goats that were streaked or spotted, and all the speckled or spotted female goats (all that had white on them) and all the dark-colored lambs, and he placed them in the care of his sons.

³⁶ Then he put a three-day journey between himself and Jacob, while Jacob continued to tend the rest of Laban's flocks.

³⁷ Jacob, however, took fresh-cut branches from poplar, almond and plane trees and made white stripes on them by peeling the bark and exposing the white inner wood of the branches.

³⁸ Then he placed the peeled branches in all the watering troughs, so that they would be directly in front of the flocks when they came to drink.

When the flocks were in heat and came to drink,
³⁹ they mated in front of the branches. And they bore young that were streaked or speckled or spotted.

⁴⁰ Jacob set apart the young of the flock by themselves, but made the rest face the streaked and dark-colored animals that belonged to Laban. Thus he made separate flocks for himself and did not put them with Laban's animals.

⁴¹ Whenever the stronger females were in heat, Jacob would place the branches in the troughs in front of the animals so they would mate near the branches,

⁴² but if the animals were weak, he would not place them there. So the weak animals went to Laban and the strong ones to Jacob.

⁴³ In this way the man grew exceedingly prosperous and came to own large flocks, and maidservants and menservants, and camels and donkeys.

Genesis 31

¹ Jacob heard that Laban's sons were saying,
"Jacob has taken everything our father owned
and has gained all this wealth from what
belonged to our father."

² And Jacob noticed that Laban's attitude toward
him was not what it had been.

³ Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Go back to the
land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I
will be with you."

⁴ So Jacob sent word to Rachel and Leah to come out to the fields where his flocks were.

⁵ He said to them, "I see that your father's attitude toward me is not what it was before, but the God of my father has been with me.

⁶ You know that I've worked for your father with all my strength,

⁷ yet your father has cheated me by changing my wages ten times. However, God has not allowed him to harm me.

⁸ If he said, 'The speckled ones will be your wages,' then all the flocks gave birth to speckled young; and if he said, 'The streaked ones will be your wages,' then all the flocks bore streaked young.

⁹ So God has taken away your father's livestock and has given them to me.

¹⁰ "In breeding season I once had a dream in which I looked up and saw that the male goats mating with the flock were streaked, speckled or spotted.

¹¹ The angel of God said to me in the dream,

'Jacob.' I answered, 'Here I am.'

¹² And he said, 'Look up and see that all the male goats mating with the flock are streaked,

speckled or spotted, for I have seen all that

Laban has been doing to you.

¹³ I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to me. Now

leave this land at once and go back to your

native land.' "

¹⁴ Then Rachel and Leah replied, "Do we still have any share in the inheritance of our father's estate?"

¹⁵ Does he not regard us as foreigners? Not only has he sold us, but he has used up what was paid for us.

¹⁶ Surely all the wealth that God took away from our father belongs to us and our children. So do whatever God has told you."

¹⁷ Then Jacob put his children and his wives on camels,

¹⁸ and he drove all his livestock ahead of him,
along with all the goods he had accumulated in
Paddan Aram, to go to his father Isaac in the
land of Canaan.

¹⁹ When Laban had gone to shear his sheep,
Rachel stole her father's household gods.

²⁰ Moreover, Jacob deceived Laban the Aramean
by not telling him he was running away.

²¹ So he fled with all he had, and crossing the
River, he headed for the hill country of Gilead.

²² On the third day Laban was told that Jacob had fled.

²³ Taking his relatives with him, he pursued Jacob for seven days and caught up with him in the hill country of Gilead.

²⁴ Then God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream at night and said to him, "Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad."

²⁵ Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country of Gilead when Laban overtook him, and Laban and his relatives camped there too.

²⁶ Then Laban said to Jacob, "What have you done? You've deceived me, and you've carried off my daughters like captives in war.

²⁷ Why did you run off secretly and deceive me? Why didn't you tell me, so I could send you away with joy and singing to the music of tambourines and harps?

²⁸ You didn't even let me kiss my grandchildren and my daughters good-bye. You have done a foolish thing.

²⁹ I have the power to harm you; but last night the God of your father said to me, 'Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.'

³⁰ Now you have gone off because you longed to return to your father's house. But why did you steal my gods?"

³¹ Jacob answered Laban, "I was afraid, because I thought you would take your daughters away from me by force.

³² But if you find anyone who has your gods, he shall not live. In the presence of our relatives, see for yourself whether there is anything of yours here with me; and if so, take it." Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen the gods.

³³ So Laban went into Jacob's tent and into Leah's tent and into the tent of the two maidservants, but he found nothing. After he

came out of Leah's tent, he entered Rachel's tent.

³⁴ Now Rachel had taken the household gods and put them inside her camel's saddle and was sitting on them. Laban searched through everything in the tent but found nothing.

³⁵ Rachel said to her father, "Don't be angry, my lord, that I cannot stand up in your presence; I'm having my period." So he searched but could not find the household gods.

³⁶ Jacob was angry and took Laban to task.

"What is my crime?" he asked Laban. "What sin have I committed that you hunt me down?

³⁷ Now that you have searched through all my goods, what have you found that belongs to your household? Put it here in front of your relatives and mine, and let them judge between the two of us.

³⁸ "I have been with you for twenty years now. Your sheep and goats have not miscarried, nor have I eaten rams from your flocks.

³⁹ I did not bring you animals torn by wild beasts; I bore the loss myself. And you demanded payment from me for whatever was stolen by day or night.

⁴⁰ This was my situation: The heat consumed me in the daytime and the cold at night, and sleep fled from my eyes.

⁴¹ It was like this for the twenty years I was in your household. I worked for you fourteen years for your two daughters and six years for your flocks, and you changed my wages ten times.

⁴² If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been with me, you would surely have sent me away empty-handed. But God has seen my hardship and the toil of my hands, and last night he rebuked you."

⁴³ Laban answered Jacob, "The women are my daughters, the children are my children, and the flocks are my flocks. All you see is mine. Yet what can I do today about these daughters of mine, or about the children they have borne?

⁴⁴ Come now, let's make a covenant, you and I, and let it serve as a witness between us."

⁴⁵ So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar.

⁴⁶ He said to his relatives, "Gather some stones."

So they took stones and piled them in a heap,
and they ate there by the heap.

⁴⁷ Laban called it Jegar Sahadutha, ^[q] and Jacob
called it Galeed.

⁴⁸ Laban said, "This heap is a witness between
you and me today." That is why it was called
Galeed.

⁴⁹ It was also called Mizpah, because he said,
"May the LORD keep watch between you and
me when we are away from each other.

⁵⁰ If you mistreat my daughters or if you take
any wives besides my daughters, even though
no one is with us, remember that God is a
witness between you and me."

⁵¹ Laban also said to Jacob, "Here is this heap,
and here is this pillar I have set up between you
and me.

⁵² This heap is a witness, and this pillar is a witness, that I will not go past this heap to your side to harm you and that you will not go past this heap and pillar to my side to harm me.

⁵³ May the God of Abraham and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge between us."

So Jacob took an oath in the name of the Fear of his father Isaac.

⁵⁴ He offered a sacrifice there in the hill country and invited his relatives to a meal. After they had eaten, they spent the night there.

⁵⁵ Early the next morning Laban kissed his grandchildren and his daughters and blessed them. Then he left and returned home.

How is this passage of scripture similar to the cartoon Fool Coverage?

We see that Porky is kinda like Jacob and Daffy is kinda like Laban. Daffy wants to change his insurance policy so a payout is impossible, tries to hide the fine print, and talks so fast that perhaps Porky can't ask questions. Porky in his

deceived mind takes Daffy up on it and signs the contract, only then did Daffy show his true colors. Laban was the same way. He entered into a deal intentionally to deceive Jacob. Jacob bit on the contract and Laban couldn't have been happier. The longer Jacob worked for Laban the more blessed Laban was for Jacob's sake. Catching on especially with this perk, Laban tried to change Jacob's contract and wages to keep him there for cheap labor and the blessing that Jacob had. Laban fully intended to use Jacob and leave him with nothing to the end.

Daffy wanted to give Porky a deceptive and probably very expensive contract in order to take Porky to the cleaners with no intention of giving Porky anything good. God doesn't want us to have this kind of deal either spiritual or physical. In fact, God gave us instructions to avoid trickery like this. It is called prayer and the promise that if we listen to Him, we won't be fooled and if we are for some reason, he will redeem this—just like with Jacob, and yes Porky. Even if we don't see redemption on this side, there is definitely redemption on the other

side for following Jesus, our Savior. We will be able to sing this Psalm.

The Bible States in Psalms 91:

¹ He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

² I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."

³ Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.

⁴ He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

⁵ You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,

⁶ nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.

⁷ A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.

⁸ You will only observe with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.

⁹ If you make the Most High your dwelling—
even the LORD, who is my refuge—

¹⁰ then no harm will befall you,
no disaster will come near your tent.

¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning
you

to guard you in all your ways;

¹² they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a
stone.

¹³ You will tread upon the lion and the cobra;
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

¹⁴ "Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I
will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my
name.

¹⁵ He will call upon me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honor him.

¹⁶ With long life will I satisfy him
and show him my salvation."

We have a side note here. As far as I understand it, a fowler is a bird catcher who uses small birds as bait to catch a big game bird. The game bird is attracted by a cage of small birds; he lands on the cage to get to the bait and then the

game bird is snagged in nets (cleverly attached to the cage) that fall on him from above. God wants to free us from traps that the Devil wants to snare us with so we can live long and prosper in His world. God wants the Devil to always leave empty handed. The wicked will eventually have nothing and the righteous will have everything. Faith in God, prayer, and meditation on God's Word and promises is the key to not being deceived and redemption of bad things if we get into trouble or get trapped by bad judgment.

What have we learned today and how will we use it in our lives?

Remember to keep God first so He can help you through thick and thin and have the great relationship with you that you both want and need. There are people who don't want God around them. This is their loss. There are people that don't believe Jesus is Savior. This is their loss. There is nothing to fear about coming to Jesus for the blessing of salvation. Please come if you want this relationship to Jesus. Are

there any takers of this deal that is never going to be a “bait and switch”?

V) Closing Prayer

Special Thanks To <http://biblegateway.com> for the scriptures in this lesson!!!!¹

¹<http://biblegateway.com> Genesis 29-31; Psalms 91 (NIV)