

Refrigerator Notes 16 November 2014

“So What’s The Fuss”

(When families feud, no one wins)

Genesis 31.38-55

1. This morning we bear witness to a family drama that plays out in the bible were there are no winners – reality check!
2. In the text this morning, we see tensions escalated because of harden hearts, mistrust, anger, false accusations, pride, indignity, revenge, lying, fighting, deceitfulness, dishonesty, daughters writing off fathers, father who exhibits narcissistic behaviors, a high speed chase, a hostage and finally a truce (do these traits fit you)
3. The players in this drama are mainly Jacob and his uncle Laban
4. We are really eye witnesses to the things that causes a family (or church) to become dysfunctional and yet most of us stand by ideally – watch, wait and do nothing as our family disintegrate and the drama increases – oh yes, we love to talk about the drama when we are not part of it – adding fuel to the fire sometimes (really)
5. We become witnesses to mistrust, misplaced anger and wrath that is not of God, with the hope of some kind of resolution to a conflict that is spinning out of control
6. Jacob who in the past himself lied, cheated and manipulated others
7. Laban has no scruples, yet Jacob is the victim?
8. So often, we talk to people who have offended us or hurt you or others
9. Turn it around and ask yourself, who have you offended or hurt and what was your recourse?
10. We are even concerned about those who have a perception of having something against us, when they may think that they have done nothing wrong
11. Where is the forgiveness & repentance of the character’s actions or how about our own actions?
12. God calls us to establish right relationships with family (church) members, to reconcile our differences immediately
13. But there is hope when we pray for others who are involved in family disputes or conflicts (we are called to help or assist in resolution)
14. Only God can right the injustice and Christ who reconciles us – that is where we need to start with our prayers, first for ourselves and second for others
15. The point of this lesson that DPC needs to walk away with is this – there will be suffering, hardships, and injustice during seasons in our lives, but only God is cable of overturning injustices and God does allow us to reap what we sow
16. Closing, the scripture points us to follow Romans 13.12-14
17. Amen – ‘so it is so’ – better translation “So be it”- not what’s the fuss!