

**BREAKING LABELS**  
**Ghosts of Christmas Past – Part 3**  
**December 17, 2017**

**The Power of Words...**

**Proverbs 18:21a (NIV)** *“The tongue has the power of life and death.”*

**Words have a powerful shaping force in our lives.**

**Many people struggle in the present because of labels that they have picked up in the past.**

**What's true about you now doesn't have to be true about you later.**

**Name It Something Different...**

**Genesis 29:8 (MSG)** *“‘We can’t,’ they said. ‘Not until all the shepherds get here. It takes all of us to roll the stone from the well. Not until then can we water the flocks.’”*

**Genesis 29:10-12 (MSG)** *“The moment Jacob spotted Rachel, daughter of Laban his mother’s brother, saw her arriving with his uncle Laban’s sheep, he went and single-handedly rolled the stone from the mouth of the well and watered the sheep of his uncle Laban. <sup>11</sup>Then he kissed Rachel and broke into tears. <sup>12</sup>He told Rachel that he was related to her father, that he was Rebekah’s son. She ran and told her father.”*

**Genesis 29:14-15 (MSG)** *“When Jacob had been with him for a month, <sup>15</sup>Laban said, ‘Just because you’re my nephew, you shouldn’t work for me for nothing. Tell me what you want to be paid. What’s a fair wage?’”*

**Genesis 29:16-18 (MSG)** *“Now Laban had two daughters; Leah was the older and Rachel the younger. <sup>17</sup>Leah had nice eyes, but Rachel was stunningly beautiful. <sup>18</sup>And it was Rachel that Jacob loved. So Jacob answered, ‘I will work for you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.’”*

**Genesis 29:20-21 (MSG)** *“So Jacob worked seven years for Rachel. But it only seemed like a few days, he loved her so much. <sup>21</sup>Then Jacob said to Laban, ‘Give me my wife; I’ve completed what we agreed I’d do. I’m ready to consummate my marriage.’”*

**Genesis 29:26-27 (MSG)** *“‘In our country,’ said Laban, ‘We don’t marry off the younger daughter before the older. <sup>27</sup>Enjoy your week of honeymoon, and then we’ll give you the other one also. But it will cost you another seven years of work.’”*

**Genesis 35:16b-18 (NIV)** *“Rachel began to give birth and had great difficulty. <sup>17</sup>And as she was having great difficulty in childbirth, the midwife said to her, ‘Don’t despair, for you have another son.’ <sup>18</sup>As she breathed her last—for she was dying—she named her son Ben-Oni. But his father named him Benjamin.”*

**Rachel named her son one thing,**

**but his father called him something else.**

**Ben means son.**

**Oni means sorrow.**

**Jamin means of my right hand.**

**If you don’t like the label you’ve been given,**

**name it something different.**

**Genesis 32:26 (NIV)** *“Then the man said, ‘Let me go, for it is daybreak.’ But Jacob replied, ‘I will not let you go unless you bless me.’”*

**Genesis 32:27-28 (NIV)** *“The man asked him, ‘What is your name? Jacob,’ he answered. <sup>28</sup>Then the man said, ‘Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.’”*

**Jacob means deceiver. Israel means God rules.**

**Your Father in heaven labels you as blessed!**

**Romans 8:28 (NIV)** *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.”*