

VAYETZEI: An Eye Opening Dvar Torah by Rabbi Doniel Kramer

- Rochel, Leah and supporting a husband who learns.

This morning after davening someone told me the following D'var Torah. He claims that it is from Rav Yonason Eybeschutz, but I have not actually seen it in one of his seforim.

We know that Rochel tended to the sheep of Lavan. Rashi tells us that this was because Lavan had no sons. The natural question to ask is, "Why wasn't Leah taking care of the sheep?" After all, she was older.

The medrash says that Leah was supposed to marry Eisav and Rochel was to marry Yaakov. (One of the reasons given for Leah's weak eyes is that she cried often, because she did not want to marry Eisav.) Since Rochel was to marry Yaakov, and he was learning in yeshiva, she needed to have the means to earn a Parnassa, because she was to support him. Hence she took care of the sheep. Leah, on the other hand, was to marry Eisav who was not a learner. Therefore there was no reason for her to work! :-)