

GRUDGING, GRUDGINGLY, RELUCTANCE, RELUCTANT, RELUCTANTLY

When Jacob was **reluctant** to steal Esau's blessing for fear of getting caught, Rebekah pushed him into doing it anyway.

- **Genesis 27:11-13:** "And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man: My father peradventure will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a deceiver; and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing. And his mother said unto him, Upon me be thy curse, my son: only obey my voice, and go fetch me them."

The only thing that stopped Laban from violently attacking Jacob and his family was divine intervention. After God appeared to Laban in a dream and told him to leave Jacob alone, it seems that Laban **reluctantly** decided to not attack them after all (although he clearly still wanted to).

- **Genesis 31:29:** "It is in the power of my hand to do you hurt: but the God of your father spake unto me yesternight, saying, Take thou heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad."

When the witch at Endor was **reluctant** to bring up the spirit of a dead person because she was afraid she might be put to death for doing so, Saul swore an oath to her *by the Lord* that she wouldn't die. (This was very wicked, because the Mosaic Law required witches to be put to death. Yet Saul used God's holy name to violate His law and swear that the witch

wouldn't be executed.)

- **1 Samuel 28:8-10:** "And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee. And the woman said unto him, Behold, thou knowest what Saul hath done, how he hath cut off those that have familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land: wherefore then layest thou a snare for my life, to cause me to die? And Saul sware to her by the LORD, saying, As the LORD liveth, there shall no punishment happen to thee for this thing."

When Absalom asked David to allow his brother Amnon to go to a party he was throwing in Baalhazor, David was **reluctant** to allow it. However, Absalom pressed him and insisted. (This was so Absalom could murder Amnon.)

- **2 Samuel 13:23,26- 27:** "And it came to pass after two full years, that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baalhazor, which is beside Ephraim: and Absalom invited all the king's sons. ... Then said Absalom, If not, I pray thee, let my brother Amnon go with us. And the king said unto him, Why should he go with thee? But Absalom pressed him, that he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him."

Wives should love their husbands and seek to satisfy them. (In other words, sex shouldn't be **grudging** or denied.)

- **Proverbs 5:19:** "Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love."

Solomon's beloved moved with haste to reach him. She didn't move **reluctantly** or slowly. (Her speed was compared to the speed of chariots.)

- **Song of Solomon 6:12:** "Or ever I was aware, my soul made me like the chariots of Amminadib."

The day is coming when people will eagerly do evil with both hands. Evil will no longer be done **reluctantly**, but will be carried out with passion.

- **Micah 7:3:** "That they may do evil with both hands earnestly, the prince asketh, and the judge asketh for a reward; and the great man, he uttereth his mischievous desire: so they wrap it up."

Paul said that giving must not be done grudgingly. It must not be forced or done **reluctantly**.

- **2 Corinthians 9:7:** "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

Paul was **reluctant** to talk about himself. He only did it when necessary, in order to get people to listen to the truth of the gospel (or to defend himself against those who attacked his apostleship).

- **2 Corinthians 11:16-17:** "I say again, Let no man think me a fool; if otherwise, yet as a fool receive me, that I may boast myself a little. That which I speak, I speak it not after the Lord, but as it were foolishly, in this confidence

of boasting."

Paul was eager to boast about the Lord, but was very **reluctant** to glorify himself.

- **2 Corinthians 12:1:** "It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord."

When Paul had his vision of Heaven he didn't immediately tell everyone or try to use the experience to make a lot of money. Instead he kept it a secret. He referred to it with great **reluctance** and refused to give any details about what he saw. (This is very different from the "Heaven tourism" books that are released on a fairly regular basis, which seem to be obvious frauds.)

- **2 Corinthians 12:2-4:** "I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter."

Church leaders must love being hospitable. It must not be something they hate or are **reluctant** to do.

- **Titus 1:7-8:** "For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy,

temperate;"

The hospitality that Christians offer shouldn't be given grudgingly (**reluctantly**).

- **1 Peter 4:9:** "Use hospitality one to another without grudging."

When Jude talked about those whom God destroyed because of their wickedness, Jude preached a message of judgment (which is something many people today are **reluctant** to do).

- **Jude 1:5:** "I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not."