



THE BEGINNINGS!

The Book of Genesis

Faith and blessings!

Genesis 27:1-46

Message #29 of 50 – S931

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Sunday Morning Service

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Faith and blessings!

Genesis 27:1-46

Opening Comments

- Good morning – turn to **Genesis 27**
- Today we continue our journey through **Genesis: THE BEGINNINGS!**
- Ever hear someone say, ‘That is not very Christian!’ to someone?
- Hopefully never to you. Unbelievers (and most believers) expect believers to behave in a certain way.
- They should behave differently than the unbelieving world, but they will never be perfect.
- Chapter 27 is a perfect storm of imperfect people acting imperfectly.
- This chapter can be confusing – it looks like Jacob gets blessed by God through deceit
- There is more to this story than that
- Ultimately, this is a message about the wrong way to get God’s blessing
- Let’s pray and ask the Holy Spirit’s blessing upon our ears that we might hear what He wants to say to each of us
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **Faith and blessings!**
- Here is something to meditate upon: Are God’s blessings purely a function of His undeserved favor and grace or do our actions play a role in God’s blessings?
- Just something to think about this week
- Genesis 27 may be the saddest chapter in Genesis
- Four people are mentioned: Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, and Jacob
- None of them do the right thing – all of them are unfaithful
- Even though they are all unfaithful – God is faithful
- God is always faithful
- It is a great comfort to me that God is faithful even when I am not, or someone else around me is not

- In the last chapter Isaac made the same mistake his father did, not trusting God to protect him – lied and said that Rebekah was his sister
- The Bible tells us to be careful what we do in this life **Galatians 6:7-8**
Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.
- His deceit will bear fruit of deceit in this chapter
- **Genesis 27:1-4**
- Isaac is 137 at this point
- Culturally, this was the right thing for Isaac to do.
- In essence, Isaac is setting his affairs in order before he dies.
- This involved the distribution of his wealth and possessions.
- More importantly, it involved the spiritual leadership of the family.
- The blessing was the passing on of the promises God had made to Abraham and Isaac.
- Just one problem with that – God had spoken on this topic **Genesis 25:23**
And the LORD said to her: “Two nations are in your womb, two peoples shall be separated from your body; one people shall be stronger than the other, and the older shall serve the younger.”
- Before Esau and Jacob were born, God determined that Jacob would be the one through whom the blessings would pass
- Either Isaac is having a senior moment and forgot or he is doing what he wants rather than what God wants
- After all, Esau is his favorite of the twins
- His plan does not go unnoticed
- **Genesis 27:5-8**
- Rebekah also knows what God said about the twins – she decides she has to do something
- **Genesis 27:9-12**
- Rebekah plans to deceive Isaac so that Jacob gets the blessing God promised him
- Jacob sees the obvious flaw in mom’s plan
- Esau hairy (shaggy) – he is smooth-skinned
- Notice his concern – ‘I shall seem to be a deceiver to him’

- Jacob is more concerned about his reputation than he is about his character
- Not concerned about deceiving his father, just doesn't want to get caught
- Not a good look on the father of the 12 tribes of Israel
- Mom tells him not to worry about it, she has a plan for that too
- **Genesis 27:13-18**
- Isaac is blind but he not deaf – something is not right
- **Genesis 27:19**
- Lie – lie – lie – one after another
- The Bible tells us where lies come from **John 8:44**
You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and *does not* stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.
- Both Rebekah and Jacob may have felt justified – God had promised the blessing to Jacob
- Isaac was the one who was going against God
- Deceiving or lying to “help God” is wickedness = sin
- God doesn't reward sin
- **Genesis 27:20**
- It is bad enough that Rebekah and Jacob have conspired to deceive Isaac
- Now they are making God complicit in their deception
- This is a common tactic for those who want to do what they want rather than what God has said in His Word
- They will say something like, ‘If God didn't want me to do this He wouldn't have made me like this.’
- That is twisted, corrupt logic that will lead to the greatest of perversions and evil
- Isaac still isn't convinced
- **Genesis 27:21-29**
- All of Isaac's senses fail him, including common sense
- Isaac, who in Genesis 22 was shown as a type of Christ
- Is here depicted as a backslidden man of the flesh

- He is more concerned about the savory meat than he is about doing what is right
- And so he proclaims the blessing over Jacob
- There is something spiritual and divine about this blessing
- It is prophetic in nature – speaking forth the will of God
- This was the blessing Jacob was supposed to receive
- Just not the way he should have obtained it
- Jacob almost gets caught in the act by his brother
- **Genesis 27:30-33**
- It could be that Isaac is having a spiritual awakening.
- He had tried to accomplish his own will and God sovereignly over-ruled him.
- **Genesis 27:34**
- Esau's response is remorse but it was lacking something **Hebrews 12:14-17**

Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

- Esau had remorse but no repentance
- Tears of remorse without repentance do not move the heart of God
- These are the tears of a petulant, self-indulgent child-man
- **Genesis 27:35-36**
- As is typical of someone who is motivated by the flesh, Esau blames Jacob for his troubles
- His remorse has turned into resentment
- He is not taking responsibility for despising his birthright for a bowl of stew (Genesis 25:29-34)
- **Genesis 27:37-40**
- Esau's blessing was one of prosperity and violence
- Because there was no repentance in Esau's remorse it produced resentment, it then transforms into something else
- **Genesis 27:41**

- Esau goes from remorse to resentment to resolve – he will kill his brother once dad dies
- It seems that nothing happens in Isaac’s family that Rebekah doesn’t find out about
- **Genesis 27:42-46**
- At the beginning of the next chapter Isaac sends Jacob to Padan Aram, Rebekah’s hometown
- Little does she know that this is the last time she will see him
- ‘a few days’ turns into twenty years
- This chapter can be very confusing
- Seems like Rebekah and Jacob get away with deception
- Seems like Jacob gets the blessing
- Remember – Moses writing to nation of Israel
- Probably in wilderness – approaching Promised Land
- What was message of this chapter for them? And for us?
- For Israel one message was that Jacob was the one through whom promises made to Abraham passed
- As descendants of Jacob = their promises
- More important lesson for them and us
- God’s faithfulness does not depend upon human faithfulness
- Nor ability, nor worthiness
- God had promised blessing to Jacob
- Isaac knew that – thought God was making mistake
- Thought his way was better
- Rebekah knew that – didn’t believe God could do it without her help
- Jacob knew that - Allowed himself to be manipulated by mother - To dishonor father by deceiving him
- Esau knew that - Was indifferent until his material blessing affected
- It was God’s plan to bless Jacob
- He was always the one through whom promises would pass
- He was always going to be one through whom Jesus would descend
- Might look at text like this and say, ‘ends justify the means’
- God caused all this to happen – WRONG!
- It is contrary to God’s nature to cause us to sin or to choose to accomplish His will through wickedness

- Just so that His plan can come to pass **James 1:13-14**

Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

- Might be a surprise to some – God doesn’t need our help
- God’s promises cannot fail – God cannot fail
- Anytime we get involved to help - We just mess things up
- Rebekah did not help God – she interfered
- She paid a steep price - Jacob left – never to be seen again
- Jacob will also pay a price - Laban will deceive him on numerous occasions - All comes down to faith
- Somehow this family’s faith was weak
- Had started well – finished poorly **Warren Wiersbe**
Faith is living without scheming; and faith means obeying God no matter how we feel, what we think, or what might happen.

- God’s promises are sure – depend upon them
- We will never have to sin to get what God promises
- We never have to compromise
- We just trust God **Proverbs 3:5-6**

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

- Trusting & obeying God will call you to ignore your natural senses
- True faith will take you places where your flesh doesn’t want to go
- Or tells you that you can’t go
- God’s will never leads where His grace cannot keep you
- There is no way of knowing how the blessing would have passed to Jacob if Rebekah had not interfered
- I just know that they would have – it was God’s will
- The whole family would probably not have suffered as much
- We must be careful, our attempts to help God
- Can have widespread damaging effects
- Trust God, Obey His written Word
- Not sure what to do – Get prayer, get counsel, be discipled
- Still not sure – trust Him and wait
- His promises never fail – believe it and be blessed
- **Pray!**