

Genesis 27-28

Isaac Blesses Jacob

27:1 Now it came to pass, when Isaac was old and his eyes were so dim that he could not see, that he called Esau his older son and said to him, "My son."

And he answered him, "Here I am."

2 Then he said, "Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death. 3 Now therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me. 4 And make me savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die."

So we have Isaac here, old, blind, and weathered by his age, he is not sure how much longer he will live.

You can see why it is easy to envision him over weight, just this carnal driven man at this point.

So he calls his oldest son, Esau and asks him to go on a mission for him, to hunt wild game, and cook it up savory and delicious to his taste.

You see here Isaac, is driven by his fleshly appetite, much like Esau driven by his flesh.

Isaac surely favored Esau, without a doubt.

He was a manly man, an adventurous man, a man who was free and wild, rugged, he was a mighty hunter, probably strong, and stout.

Now this is a man's man.

You know when you get a bunch of young men together, what do they typically do?

They start arm wrestling, they start even wrestling, seeing who could do the most push-ups, they race, they eat ridiculous things to show others up.

Men are always trying to be the mightiest, the most legendary, the greatest, the strongest.

And most importantly if they are single... they are doing all this hoping that special young lady is watching.

Men are fools.

Isaac is living vicariously through his son here.

Isaac's gluttonous desires are filled by his son's epic adventures.

I am sure as they ate these magnificent delicacies Esau would tell his father the stories of the perilous hunt, he would tell him of the close calls, he would share how they almost got away, but he was so cunning to outsmart these elusive animals.

And Isaac, would brag about his mighty son Esau.

Isaac loved him, and wanted him to prosper, however, God did not choose his son Esau.

Remember what God told Rebekah **Gen 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."

Isaac was trying to buck the system. He let his fleshly appetite, his love for his adventurous son, and his own desires choke out the Word of God.

You see Rebekah had to overhear, she was not invited to this momentous time in her son Esau's life.

I imagine it was because Isaac was trying to get away with this, knowing Rebekah Loved Jacob, and Loved God as Well, she would put a stop to this whole thing.

God declared Jacob, the deceiving, cunning, lying, manipulative son of Isaac to be heir to the promises given to Abraham, then to Isaac.

But we see here Isaac planned on giving what was Jacob's commanded by God, to Esau.

Remember Jacob had already capitalized on Esau's fleshly appetite, and was able to gain his birthright.

Now the blessing, which was Jacob's as well, was about to be given to Esau.

So what do you think happens? Do you think Jacob will just trust that the Lord will work it out?

Surely Jacob must know that God's Word is above his finite father's word.

Let's see if Jacob the momma's boy trusts, or if he manipulates his way into God's Blessing...

5 Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt game and to bring it. 6 So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, "Indeed I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying, 7 'Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the Lord before my death.' 8 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you. 9 Go now to the flock and bring me from there two choice kids of the goats, and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves. 10 Then you shall take it to your father, that he may eat it, and that he may bless you before his death."

So mom understanding the Word of God, tries to come up with a scheme to have Jacob blessed.

And so she comes up with a plan to make some goat meat taste like some tasty venison.

We see here Isaac just loved food, he would not be able to tell the difference between the game or the goat.

She wants Jacob to pretend to be Esau, and lie, and receive the blessing.

Again as if Isaac's blessing would overrule God's Word.

Sometimes our human understanding of God limits us, we try to come up with all kinds of unnecessary schemes to try to make God's Word come true.

But learn this lesson, when God says something, it will happen, believe His Word.

You see there are big consequences for them taking matters into their own hands.

It will cause distrust, and even division in the family.

11 And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Look, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth-skinned man. 12 Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him; and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing."

Jacob's only fear is getting caught in his lie.

He does not care that his dad will know him to be a schemer and deceiver after he gets what he wants.

But he is only worried that he will be found out before the blessing.

And he fears a curse would be on him, instead of a blessing.

13 But his mother said to him, "Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me." 14 And he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother made savory food, such as his father loved. 15 Then Rebekah took the choice clothes of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. 16 And she put the skins of the kids of the goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. 17 Then she gave the savory food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.

So we have Jacob here a little reluctant about this plan.

But we see something here pretty interesting, she commands him, “only obey my voice.”

For which upon hearing this he does.

Obedience to parents was not questioned in this culture.

They had to honor their parents, and later on in God’s Law we will see why, it is so we can live a prosperous life here on earth.

The only time we have grounds to disobey, is when we are asked to do something against God’s Word.

Now Jacob was in a quandary here, he is asked to lie, but I imagine he justified it, because of God’s Word, that he would be blessed.

And we never hear God rebuke Jacob for what he does here.

Rebekah and Jacob justify their sins here by doing the greater good of obeying God’s Word.

However, God could have gotten all this done without their help.

And maybe God does not rebuke their plan, but there are huge consequences for their actions.

One other thing to point out, Esau’s choice clothes were at mom’s house.

This leads us to believe that they are possibly his priestly clothes, being the oldest would bear the priestly responsibilities.

However, Esau despised his birthright, and it seems he despised the God of his ancestors as well.

He would rather play in the field then do anything that would require work or sacrifice.

Now Jacob and Rebekah are in a hurry for they have no idea when Esau will return...

18 So he went to his father and said, "My father."

And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?"

So as it seems because Isaac was blind, his hearing may have been a little off too.

Because he hears someone different than his son Esau, but Isaac does not fully trust his hearing so he asks "who are you?"

For which Jacob's deception continues...

19 Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn; I have done just as you told me; please arise, sit and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me."

20 But Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?"

And he said, "Because the Lord your God brought it to me."

So Jacob brings God into his deception.

Isaac is kind of skeptical, but Jacob assures him, that it was his God who helped him on this adventure.

And poor Isaac was probably so relieved to hear such a thing from Esau.

Esau had not chosen the way of God, and remember he married two pagan wives, that were a heartache to his parents.

Isaac probably overjoyed that now his son Esau was giving credit to his God.

This makes the heartbreak of this deception even greater.

21 Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not."

It is almost too good to be true, Esau talking of my God this way... And sadly it was too good to be true.

22 So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, and he felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." 23 And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him.

24 Then he said, "Are you really my son Esau?"

He said, "I am."

25 He said, "Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son's game, so that my soul may bless you." So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank.

26 Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near now and kiss me, my son." 27 And he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his clothing, and blessed him and said:

"Surely, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field Which the Lord has blessed. 28 Therefore may God give you Of the

dew of heaven, Of the fatness of the earth, And plenty of grain and wine. 29 Let peoples serve you, And nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, And let your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, And blessed be those who bless you!"

So Isaac gives some last minute checks before he blesses.

But Rebekah knew everything he would do, so she planned for it all.

Jacob was hairy like his brother from the goat hair, he had his brother's garments on which they smelled like the wilderness Esau spent his time wondering.

So we see Isaac give the Abrahamic Blessing that was passed to him, and he passes it to his son Jacob.

Now this was God's plan already.

Isaac knew this, it was scandalous for him to be trying to give it to Esau.

In fact he thinks he kind of outsmarted God here.

He thinks he got away with it.

How many of you know, God will not allow you to get away with disobedience if you are one of His?

We think we are so sly sometimes, we try to lie, we think we can outsmart God, and his Word.

Well as many of you may be finding out

Rom 3:4 Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar.

God will always be true, you will not get away with your sins, unless you are not a child of His.

Some say, “pastor, I am caught up in this sin, I feel horrible, I feel like I am dying on the inside.”

And I say good, because you are hearing the conviction of the Holy Spirit, if you had no remorse for the things you were doing, then you would be in a scarier place, for it seems the Holy Spirit is not working in your life.

Let’s see where Isaac is as our story continues.

Esau's Lost Hope(Heb 12:17)

30 Now it happened, as soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting.

You see the time crunch they were on....

31 He also had made savory food, and brought it to his father, and said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that your soul may bless me."

32 And his father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?"

So he said, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau."

33 Then Isaac trembled exceedingly, and said, "Who? Where is the one who hunted game and brought it to me? I ate all of it before you came, and I have blessed him — and indeed he shall be blessed."

Why would Isaac tremble this way?

Why would fear come upon him?

Maybe at that moment he remembered God's Word to him and his wife.

He understood not to try to manipulate the Creator, Isaac had tried to go around God's Words, and at that He trembled.

A Godly Fear.

I imagine this kind of fear would be healthy.

We live so apart from God's Word in today's age, and there is no trembling before Him.

We commit the most shameful acts in front of God and everyone else.

May we have this Godly tremble when we are exposed in our folly.

Let's see if Isaac learned from this heart wrenching experience...

34 When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, "Bless me — me also, O my father!"

So the mighty Esau is like a toddler throwing a tantrum, when he finds out his earthly possessions are now threatened.

Maybe thinking because his brother was blessed under deceptive circumstances, he could get this blessing anyway.

But there again we see the contempt for God's Word, and Esau now is trying to circumvent the plan God had.

Well maybe Isaac will continue to try to rebel against the Word of God even further. Let's see...

35 But he said, "Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing."

36 And Esau said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing!" And he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?"

Jacob which means heel catcher, or supplanted rightfully describes who he is.

You see when I play sports I like to win.

When I played in high school, I found very sly ways to cheat, and I rarely got caught.

Unfortunately I play this way even today.

I remember at going to High School camps or Young Adult Retreats, I would be schooling these youngsters on the basketball court, but now I am a Christian, so when I cheat I ask for forgiveness usually right away.

But I have this thing in basketball where I can make it look like I am simply going for the ball, and defending the hoop, but the mean while my foot will hit the opponents foot, to the point where his foot locks behind the other, and I supplant them, they go falling, and I go repenting all the way to the hoop while I score on them.

So I am like Jacob when I play sports, I catch heals, I trick, and cheat people to get my win.

The Lord is really working on me in this area...

So don't be like me and Jacob, the moral of the story.

Jacob supplanted his brother Esau here, he tricked his father, to get not only Esau's birthright, but now his blessing.

And Esau thinks surely there is another blessing for him.

Let's see what Isaac says...

37 Then Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Indeed I have made him your master, and all his brethren I have given to him as servants; with grain and wine I have sustained him. What shall I do now for you, my son?"

So we see in Isaacs fear and Trembling before the Lord, he has learned his lesson.

And sadly he has to tell the fleshly driven son Esau, that he will not be God's chosen son.

And Isaac submits to God's Will.

38 And Esau said to his father, "Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me — me also, O my father!" And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

He wept because of his concern for his earthly goodies.

You see the birthright came with too much responsibilities for Esau, he did not want to be bound by the burden of ruling his family.

So he despised his birthright.

But this blessing was one of success and riches.

Esau did not want to miss out on this.

So he is not upset that God did not choose him for His divine plan, but that he missed out on his earthly riches.

What a sad place to be, so concerned with this life, and totally neglecting the one to come.

So now Isaac finally understands God's plan for his favorite son Esau, and he finally tells him the truth of his life...

39 Then Isaac his father answered and said to him:

"Behold, your dwelling shall be of the fatness of the earth, And of the dew of heaven from above. 40 By your sword you shall live, And you shall serve your brother; And it shall come to pass, when you become restless, That you shall break his yoke from your neck."

And Edom, the descendants of Esau never rose to any kind of power. They always served Israel.

At times they rebelled against their rulers from the lineage of Jacob.

But eventually they died off, and no longer to Edomite's exist.

Jacob Escapes from Esau

41 So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, "The days

of mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob."

So last time Esau despised his birthright, but now he despises Jacob.

And as soon as dad dies, he plans on killing Jacob.

People often wonder if it is fair that God chose Jacob over Esau.

Rom 9:13 As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated."

Well God in His sovereignty knew Esau would reject Him.

And the role of the Eldest son, as heir to the priesthood of the family would be despised by him.

Esau rebelled against God. God knew he would, and He knew Jacob would serve Him.

So to me the fact God hated Esau is not hard for me to grasp, but the fact he loved lying cheating, heal catching Jacob is what blows my mind.

But in all Jacob's failures, he still pursued what God had planned for him.

Prov. 24:16 For a righteous man may fall seven times
And rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity.

God was able to get glory from Jacob; the Mighty Esau loved his own glory.

That is what separated these two.

42 And the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said to him, "Surely your brother Esau comforts himself concerning you by intending to kill you. 43 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice: arise, flee to my brother Laban in Haran. 44 And stay with him a few days, until your brother's fury turns away, 45 until your brother's anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him; then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereaved also of you both in one day?"

So Rebekah wants to send Jacob on to her brother's land, and she says she will send for her son when Esau's anger subsides, she never does this.

As we will see Jacob from this point will have to learn to walk on his own with the Lord.

He leaves with nothing, no servants, maybe no mule, no camels, nothing, and this next part of his life will be challenging.

However he will learn to depend on the Lord.

He had to get out of his parent's house to learn how to walk with God, to hear His voice for himself.

And so mom sends him away, little does she know she will never see her beloved son again in this life.

Isaac we will see lives another 40 years, and will see the return of his son.

46 And Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth; if Jacob takes a wife of the daughters of Heth, like these who are the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?"

Evidently the wives of Esau were a strain on the family, their pagan, idolatrous ways were bringing conflict to Isaac and Rebekah.

So she asks Isaac to send Jacob away to find a woman from their heritage, one who would know the God of Abraham, and would be pleasant to be around.

She could have a daughter in Law she could have tea with, and talk about things of the Lord.

There would not be the contentions that Esau's wives brought to the house...

Jacob Sent to His Uncle Laban

28:1 Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and charged him, and said to him: "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan. 2 Arise, go to Padan Aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father; and take yourself a wife from there of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother.

3 "May God Almighty bless you, And make you fruitful and multiply you, That you may be an assembly of peoples; 4 And give you the blessing of Abraham, To you and your descendants with you, That you may inherit the land In which you are a stranger, Which God gave to Abraham."

5 So Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Padan Aram, to Laban the son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau.

Esau Marries Mahalath

6 Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Padan Aram to take himself a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan," 7 and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and had gone to Padan Aram. 8 Also Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan did not please his father Isaac. 9 So Esau went to Ishmael and took Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife in addition to the wives he had.

So Esau sees that his brother is blessed by simply obeying his parents.

So he tries to fix things in his own life, and he takes a wife from Ishmael's family line.

She surely would win the approval of his parents.

But it was too late for him, he already missed his chance at blessing.

So lesson learned here. Obey and honor your parents, it will be a blessing for your life.

It is interesting how the younger generation is being taught, and even empowered to think their parents are the enemy.

They think of them as their opponent, and many young people today miss the fact their parents really do love them.

They only want the best for them.

If they could just humble themselves, and begin to obey their parents, the blessing that would come to their life would literally be out of this world.

Satan is so clever in his obstinate ways to God's Ordinances.

He uses the movies, the education system, and pop culture to empower these youths to rebel against any form of authority.

If you watch the movies that the youth wait in lines to see, Hunger Games, Maze Runner, and Divergent, they are all centered on youth rebelling against adults.

It seems to be working, our youth with no real life experience, feel empowered in their ideas, and they mock the instruction of those who love them the most.

It is all just a ploy of Satan who hates God's ways.

But to you young person here tonight, obey and honor your parents as Jacob does, and find the path of blessing.

Not the easy path, the easy path is Satan's distraction, but the hard path, the narrow way, that leads through the narrow gate.

Few be there that find it.

Jacob's Vow at Bethel

10 Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran. 11 So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. 12 Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

13 And behold, the Lord stood above it and said: "I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. 14 Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. 15 Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."

16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." 17 And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!"

18 Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. 19 And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been Luz previously. 20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me,

and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, 21 so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God. 22 And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."

So many things happening here, God first off gives Jacob a vision, and allows him to see these angels on what looked like a ladder ascending and descending on the earth.

Jacob's Ladder was a place where heaven and earth came together.

Jacob gets a glimpse into the spiritual.

You see this is a concept the modern church has kind of backed off from.

The reality of these beings all around us. Some Good and Some evil.

They are in a battle for the heart of man.

We have to understand some are ministering spirits, sent to help man out, all for the Glory of God.

God as we see in scripture will allow man to see them every now and then.

We can even understand through scripture the wicked spirits even ultimately serving God's purpose.

We see this with Job.

Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.

We know in the case of Job; Satan was used to test him.

Or even in Revelation we see the demonic spirits administer God's wrath.

So Jacob here has this vision of the spiritual activity happening between heaven and earth, and God speaks to him for the first time.

And Jacob is now out of his parent's covering, out from under his parent's faith, finds his own faith.

And God transfers the promises made to Abraham, and Isaac, and gives them to Jacob.

Jacob then makes a stone of remembrance, an altar, and vows to serve the God of his father.

Also he declares he will give a tenth of all his increase to the Lord.

So we see again tithing, before the Law of God, as a principle.

What is the purpose of tithing? Why should we give?

Look at Jacob's reason for giving, it is out of gratitude for all that God was going to bless him with.

And for us too. We tend to take credit for all our work, we like to believe all we have is because of what we have done.

But in reality anything we have is from the Lord.

And out of our response to that we give.

This is a foundational principle to know...

**Prov. 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,
But fools despise wisdom and instruction.**

So many are in financial trouble today, pulling out their hair, wondering where the next rent payment will come from?

Well scripture really lays out the principles for us, to be successful in our finances, but of course it begins at the fear of the Lord, or honoring the Lord first with our stewardship of what He entrust to us...

The fool despises this wisdom and instruction...

Jacob, in worship to God, declares a tenth of everything will go back to the Lord in worship.

So Jacob is blessed here, and he makes a way to remember with a pillar.

Because the funny thing about humans, we forget all that God does and speaks to us.

I want challenge you to keep a prayer journal, and keep a stone of remembrance for your leaking brains.

To look back on and see those times God clearly spoke, and answered our prayers.

Briefly describe my journal if led to.

I believe God is telling a story with the ministry here.

You all are a part of something bigger than this little country church in the corner of the desert.

There are things happening in the unseen places, heavenly realm that involve all of you.

An Almighty God, **whose eyes run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. 2 Chron. 16:9**

He sees a group of individuals whose hearts are aligning with His will, and I believe our eyes are seeing, and will see a great move of God.

This is what I believe, prayers, very specific prayers are being answered, and this tells me our hearts are aligned with God's Will.

As I have said in the past weeks God is speaking to us about the next generation, He speaking to us about reaching the kids of this neighborhood, and even our own children.

You know we had this problem, a good problem, some kids from the neighborhood wanted to come to church here, young kids, one is in the 1st to second grade class the other in the 3rd to 5th grade class, they are brothers.

But we were in a kind of a quandary, their parents did not want to come here, so because of liability reasons we had to come up with a release of liability form, mom signed it, and now they are coming to church on Sundays.

Well this Sunday we had the youngest of those brothers, and 2 other 1st-2nd graders give their lives to Jesus.

And God is moving, you know if we did free candy outreaches, or used clowns to get the kids in to our church, every week, we would have to come up with some new gimmick, to keep them here.

But because God is moving, and God is working to add to His church daily those who would believe, these kids are here for Jesus, that is it, and it is enough.

Twice I have heard of kids getting Bibles over there and being excited to receive them.

Kids excited about Bibles, that is an evidence God's Spirit is working church.

So keep the prayers up, keep writing in your journals the things God is speaking to you.

If you have not jumped on our daily manna reading do so as you write in your prayer times. Provoke others to jealousy.

Great things are ahead church. Great things are here...

Let's like Jacob set up stones of remembrances so we remember God is moving in our midst.