

The Birth of a Nation A Study in Genesis 25-36

Jacob the Deceiver
Genesis 27:1-46
February 21, 2021

He said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He answered, "I am."
- Genesis 27:24

I. A TRAGIC DECEPTION

- Isaac's blessing is stolen through a ruse. The breakdown in this family is now complete.
- All four actors in this drama bear some responsibility for the deception:
 - *Isaac—attempted to thwart God's plan via his own blessing (Gen. 25:23, 27:29).
 - *Esau—broke his own vow recorded in Gen. 25:33.
 - *Rebekah—chose one son over the other and developed the scheme.
 - *Jacob—the primary deceiver, he willingly lied to his father not once, but four times (Gen. 27:18, 20).
- This is a long narrative with a short conclusion. The blessing of the firstborn now lies with Jacob. God's will is accomplished in spite of human mechanisms against it (Job 5:12, 42:2; Isa. 8:10, 14:27).

II. SIN COMES HOME TO ROOST

- Rather than a blessing, Esau receives a curse. Isaac concedes—Jacob will indeed be blessed (Gen. 27:30-33, 39-40).
- Esau's pleading is heart-wrenching. Nevertheless, his tears will not bring back the blessing (Gen. 27:34-38; Heb. 12:15-17).
- Rebekah and Jacob are successful in their deception. The reward for their efforts are:
 - *Esau now hopes to kill Jacob (Gen. 27:41)
 - *Rebekah has surely damaged her relationship with both Isaac and Esau (Gen. 27:45).
 - *Jacob must now flee from all that he knows (Gen. 27:43-45).
 - *Rebekah will never again see the son she loves.
- Lies beget lies, and sinful behaviors often carry with them repercussions from which God does not promise to spare us (1 Sam. 12:9-15; 1 Cor. 5:4-5, 11:27-32; Heb. 12:7-14)

KNOW: Jacob receives the blessing by an act of deception, setting into motion his life as a wanderer—yet one who continues to know and experience the blessing of God.

DO: Live faithfully. Spare yourself the consequences of sin.

Suggested Reading:

The Pursuit of Holiness by Jerry Bridges (LifePoint Library #248.4 BRI)

The Hole in Our Holiness by Kevin DeYoung (Lifepoint Library #248.4 DEY)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Genesis 27:1-46

1. What do you think about God's chosen servants so far, based on our narrative through Genesis? What kind of men and women are they?
2. What are a few of the most despicable aspects of this ruse described to us in Genesis 27?
3. What lessons, do you think, are we to learn from this episode in Jacob's life?
4. Talk a bit about Isaac's blessing over Jacob, whom he assumes is Esau. What is he hoping will be true for him?
5. What, if anything, is redeeming about this narrative?
6. Talk about sin and its repercussions in our lives. How do we deal with them? Should we ask to be spared from them? How should we respond when they come into our lives?