

Jacob Receives Isaac's Blessing

Gen. 27:5-10, 18-19, 21-29

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Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. Leo Tolstoy

Unifying Principle:

Deceiving others is a way that people get what they want. Does human deception erase the worth of human accomplishment? Although the deception used by Rebekah and Jacob disrupted their family, God still worked through their situation to accomplish the planned and promised divine redemption of fallen humanity.

Rebekah Schemes on Behalf of Jacob

Gen. 27:5-10

Rebekah's sin: An attempt to work out God's will before God's time. (5) Rebekah overheard Isaac's conversation with Esau. Rebekah was a faithful wife who sought to please her husband and to follow his wishes. He quickly found and devised a scheme whereby Jacob could get the blessing. All four family members were at fault in this plot:

- Isaac denied what he surely knew about God's plan for Jacob.
 - Esau broke his oath.
 - Rebekah roped her son into deception and deceit.
 - Jacob demonstrating weakness
- a. By taking Jacob and suggesting that he was going to lose out and be bypassed. (6-7)
Rebekah told Jacob that Isaac was scheming to give the blessing and inheritance to Esau.
 - b. By suggesting a human plan to achieve God's will. (8-10) (8)
 - 1) To prepare meat herself. (9)
 - 2) To have Jacob take the meat to his blind father and receive the blessing for himself. (10)

Jacob Deceives His Father

Gen. 27:18-19, 21-29

Jacob's sin: An attempt to secure God's will in a wrong way. (18) He was right in sensing and feeling that he was God's choice.

- a. By following the urgings, the influence, the plans of another: (19) Jacob claimed to be Esau.
- b. By impersonating another person. (21-22) Isaac was not quite sure that it was Esau.
- c. By laying claim to God's will and blessing before God's time. (23) When Isaac felt the hair on Jacob's hands and neck, he then assumed it was Esau.

- 1) Jacob lied again. (24-25)
- 2) Jacob showed love and affection-falsely. (26)
- d. By accepting God's blessings through a wrong method. (27) When Isaac caught the smells of the field clinging to Esau's clothes, he used this to be the basis of the blessing that should be given.
 - 1) God's material blessings. (28) Unlimited prosperity and power.
 - 2) God's political blessings. (29) Sovereignty over the nations.
 - 3) God's protection and security.

Spiritual Thought: Note three significant lessons:

- 1) God has a time for every person to begin his work and ministry upon earth
- 2) When God calls us to begin our work and ministry, we must act and not delay.
- 3) The plans and methods we choose to carry out our work upon earth must be God's, not man's.

Principle: Scheming and favoritism in a family have consequences that can continue for generations.

References: Exploring Genesis

The Communicator Commentary

