

SALT Church

Genesis 27-28

“Faithful Father”

July 8, 2026

“In the Beginning”

Recap

- Jacob has deceived his father Isaac and received the blessing that was meant for Esau.
- Isaac tried to give the blessing that God said was meant for Jacob to Esau which would have been a reward for Esau’s rebellion against the Lord and his parents.
- Rebekah was the mastermind behind Jacobs deception; therefore she is guilty of deceiving her husband, betraying Esau, and teaching Jacob that this kind of behavior is acceptable.
- The end result is:
 - Isaac feels betrayed
 - Esau wants to kill his brother
 - Rebekah fears for Jacobs safety
 - Jacob has to leave home because he fears for his life.
 - Notice that the Lord is not mentioned in any of this.
 - When Godly men and women decide to walk outside the will of God this is what happens.
 - What a mess!
 - Chapter 28 is the fallout of all of those bad decisions.
 - But before we get to 28 we must finish 27.

Genesis 27:41-46

⁴¹ Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him. He said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob.”

- Esau acts as if he had no part in this whole mess.
- He was rebellious to both God and his parents.
 - Let's be very clear about his rebellion:
 - He sold his birthright for a bowl of beans!
 - In other words he gave away his portion of his inheritance for a fleeting moment of pleasure.
 - This birthright was not only the promise of all of Abraham's and Isaac's stuff but it was the promise of God Himself.
 - Included in that birthright promise was the blessing that comes from God the Father.
 - In essence Esau was throwing away his future for a fleeting moment of pleasure.
 - We shouldn't be amazed by this because we see it all of the time.
 - Successful pastors, politicians, and business men throw away their futures for a fleeting moment of passion and lust.
 - Both men and women are guilty of one-night flings or the theft of money that destroyed their futures.

- Let's not forget all of the people who have thrown away their futures because they chose to drive drunk and killed themselves or some innocent who happened to be on the road at that moment.
 - It happens all of the time!

Esau had made his bed and now he has to lie in it.

- Sadly, without confession and repentance there is no hope for him.
- All that is left for him is misdirected anger is a brother who is almost as messed up as him.

⁴² When Rebekah was told what her older son Esau had said, she sent for her younger son Jacob and said to him, “Your brother Esau is planning to avenge himself by killing you. ⁴³ Now then, my son, do what I say: Flee at once to my brother Laban in Harran. ⁴⁴ Stay with him for a while until your brother’s fury subsides. ⁴⁵ When your brother is no longer angry with you and forgets what you did to him, I’ll send word for you to come back from there. Why should I lose both of you in one day?”

- Rebekah doesn't miss much.
 - She knows her boys and she knows her husband.
 - She knows that Isaac will need to agree to send the heir apparent some 1,000 miles away so, she launches her next plan.

⁴⁶ Then Rebekah said to Isaac, “I’m disgusted with living because of these Hittite women. If Jacob takes a wife from among the

women of this land, from Hittite women like these, my life will not be worth living.”

- Don't judge ladies!
 - Y'all know what she is doing.
 - She is planting a seed that will seem like the idea for Jacob to go to Harran will be Isaac's.

Genesis 28

28 So Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him. Then he commanded him: “Do not marry a Canaanite woman. ² Go at once to Paddan Aram, to the house of your mother's father Bethuel. Take a wife for yourself there, from among the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother.

- What a mess!
 - In all of this there is no prayer, no council of the Lord.
 - There is just a mess and a merciful God who has made a covenant with this messed up family.

But God...

- God the Father will use this moment to shape and mold Jacob into Israel.
- This plan set in motion by Rebekah and followed up with Isaac's blessing will set into motion a 20-year discipleship program for the deceiver Jacob.
- When Jacob leaves, he has no idea that it will be the last time he will see his parents alive.

If there is a bright spot to all of this it comes in the prayer of Isaac as he sends Jacob away:

³ May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and increase your numbers until you become a community of peoples. ⁴ May he give you and your descendants the blessing given to Abraham, so that you may take possession of the land where you now reside as a foreigner, the land God gave to Abraham.”

Few things...

- Isaac clearly has come to terms with Gods plan.
- Jacob will be the blessed son onto the blessing of Abraham will fall.
- It does sound final to me.
 - It's as if Isaac knows that he will not see this blessed son of his again.

⁵ Then Isaac sent Jacob on his way, and he went to Paddan Aram, to Laban son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, who was the mother of Jacob and Esau.

- Did you notice the clarity about where and to whom Jacob is sent.
- Moses, under the power of the Holy Spirit wants us to understand that this is clearly where Jacob is headed and to whom he is headed.
 - Perhaps if the Bible wasn't clear someone could have claimed another Laban was the one and the family line could have been disturbed.

⁶ Now Esau learned that Isaac had blessed Jacob and had sent him to Paddan Aram to take a wife from there, and that when

he blessed him he commanded him, “Do not marry a Canaanite woman,”⁷ and that Jacob had obeyed his father and mother and had gone to Paddan Aram.

- Living in a tent community that is small affords for the word to spread quickly.

⁸Esau then realized how displeasing the Canaanite women were to his father Isaac;

- Isn't that an interesting phrase?
 - “How displeasing...”
 - In the Hebrew it reads ***“how evil the Canaanite women were to his father Isaac”***

⁹so he went to Ishmael and married Mahalath, the sister of Nebaioth and daughter of Ishmael son of Abraham, in addition to the wives he already had.

- This speaks to the heart of Esau
 - He thinks that the issue with his 1st two wives can be smoothed over by another marriage to Isaac's half-brother's granddaughter.
 - What a mess!
 - I wonder if Esau thinks that he can somehow receive a blessing for this act.

(side note)

- What about the girl?

- Poor thing is sitting at the house dreaming of getting married one day and this big hairy red headed guy shows up and works out a deal where she becomes the bride of a guy who smells like a cow pasture.
 - Poor thing!

Back to Jacob

¹⁰ Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. ¹¹ When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep.

- Think about this moment.
 - My assumption is that Jacob is traveling with a small group of men.
 - They travel all day and finally stop and Jacob is so exhausted that he sleeps on the ground with a rock for a pillow.
 - Keep in mind that he and his group are in the desert of the middle east.

¹² He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth,

- In the Hebrew it is a ladder.

with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ There above it stood the Lord, and he said: “I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your

descendants the land on which you are lying. ¹⁴ Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. ¹⁵ I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

- This is the same promise that the Lord had made to Abraham and Isaac.
- Put yourself in Jacobs place
 - He had heard his father speak of hearing the Lords voice.
 - Now he hears it for the first time for himself.
 - As far as we know this is the extent of Jacobs theological build up.
 - God made a covenant promise to his grandfather and father to bless, protect, give land and many, many descendants.
 - And the whole world would be blessed because of his family.

Now remember what Jacob had been taught;

- How to lie
- How to deceive
 - While still proclaiming the promises of God.

\$50 question:

- **Why would God honor His promise to Jacob?**

- **This is the scandal of grace!**

Back to Jacob

¹⁶ When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” ¹⁷ He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.”

- From this we learn that Jacob thinks that there is something magical about this spot.
 - This is where God lives
 - This is where the angels ascend and descend upon the earth
 - It’s all about the place

¹⁸ Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. ¹⁹ He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

- Bethel means “House of God”
 - Now don’t get me wrong, it is good to remember what God has done and is doing.
 - It’s good to build reminders of the goodness of God.
 - But Jacob is mistaken
 - All of the earth is the Lords and everything in it!
 - And the Angels are not prohibited from entering the earth in other locations.
 - What is so special is this is God’s grace and mercy poured out upon a man that does not deserve it.

- God is keeping His covenant promise for His name sake.
 - But Jacob doesn't understand this yet.

Listen to what Jacob says:

²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear ²¹ so that I return safely to my father’s household, then the Lord will be my God ²² and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God’s house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.”

- This vow is a conditional vow
 - If God be with me
 - Watches over me
 - Provides food and clothes
 - Keeps me safe
 - Then I will submit to Him as Lord
 - I’m not sure if Jacob was saying that he would build a temple upon the stone that he used as a pillow or something else.
 - I do know that he promises to give a tenth of everything that was given to him by the Lord.

Family of God, we do not come to the Father with any conditions or demands.

- We come to Him with only one thing!
 - Our sin.

- Knowing this truth we have but only one posture and that is the posture of humility.

So, what have we learned tonight?

- There is always a consequence of sin for both the child of God and the non-believer.
- To live in active willful disobedience to God brings great pain and suffering to both the believer and the non-believer.
- For the non-believer they become an Esau like person.
 - Chasing their own pleasures while trying to appease the Father with disingenuous worship.
 - In Esau's case he thought he could win the favor of his father by marrying Ishmael's granddaughter.
- For the believer or chosen of God the cost of sin is still very high
 - Jacob has to leave his home for 20 years
 - In that 20 years he will be schooled by a man that is the ultimate liar and deceiver
 - Jacob has to go through the pain in order to be rid of that nature.
 - He says goodbye to his parents and will not see them again until he himself dies.

The most important lesson in all of this is that God is faithful to His chosen people, especially when they are not faithful.

- He is our FAITHFUL FATHER