

EQUIP SUNDAY SCHOOL Jim McCraigh Genesis 27, February 15, 2026

Heavenly Father... We praise you for answered prayers and grateful for all you do for us.

We ask that you hear our humble requests that were spoken and unspoken here this morning...

As we begin our study, we seek to glorify Your name. Let our worship honor You and reflect Your majesty. Fill us with Your Spirit to magnify Your name.

Grant clarity to us here this morning as we seek your wisdom...

Open all of our hearts and minds to today's lesson in Your Word that when things seem to be closing in on us that we learn from the account of Issac, Rebekah, Jacob and Esau.

And we ask these things in Jesus name...

Amen...

Please open your copy of God's Word to Genesis Chapter 27... I was actually scheduled to teach on Chapter 24, but that got snowed out... definitely a first for me... Years ago, when I taught Adult Sunday School in the Phoenix, AZ area, for some reason, it was never an issue...

WELL... If you think you came from a dysfunctional family, you might feel better after this morning's study after seeing what a REALLY dysfunctional family looks like...

Looking back to Chapter 16... If you recall, Abraham and Sarah went outside God's will and took matters into their own hands with Hagar and that did not end well, in Chapter 20 when Abraham lied to Abimelech and in Chapter 26 last week Issac lied to the king of the Philistines... both instances could have cost them their lives.

But the family apparently didn't learn from any lessons from those things... actually, we will see that the same patterns and worse will continue here in Chapter 27...

In 1925, the Eiffel Tower in Paris was only 36 years old at the time, but already in need of repairs. There was much public debate in Paris about the cost... with some even wanting to tear it down. But Victor Lustig saw a golden opportunity in all of that...

He posed as a high-ranking French government official by printing up some fake letterhead and other documents.

Then he invited a group of Paris scrap metal dealers to a secret meeting at a luxurious hotel. He explained that the government wanted to quietly sell the Eiffel Tower for scrap due to its high maintenance costs and all the controversy surrounding it.

Lustig emphasized the Need for Secrecy and Urgency convincing the dealers that the sale had to be confidential.

He then targeted a particularly greedy scrap dealer and convinced him to pay a large bribe to guarantee the "purchase" and beat out competitors.

Once Lustig received the money, he quickly fled the country. When the greedy scrap dealer realized he had been deceived, he was too embarrassed to go to the police, so Lustig was eventually able to escape without any immediate consequences.

But 10 years later, Lustig was finally caught by the U.S. Secret Service for counterfeiting 20 dollar bills. He was sentenced to 20–25 years and sent to Alcatraz, where he died just 11 years later...

His story is one of a fake identity, secrecy, and moral compromise... very much like the account we will see in today's text.

With that said...

THEME... God's Divine Providence Prevails

Aligning our Will with God's Will... Today we will look at four catastrophic failings to do so...

Like a TV soap opera... we will see the characters trying to "make" or "break" things through their worldly schemes... their own timing, rejection of God's word, or trying to manipulate or circumvent...

In this chapter we will see messy reality of a family trying to ignore or manipulate a sovereign God's providence.

Before we go any farther... What is the Providence of God?

Providence: Acts of God that Purposefully PROVIDE For, Sustain, and Govern the World.

Includes things like maintaining earth's proper axis, rain for crops, and oxygen to breathe.... Even PROVIDING a path to our salvation... as we will see in a bit...

The Hebrew word for PROVIDE is actually the word to SEE. Throughout Genesis, the Hebrew word for PROVIDE isn't translated as providence, but it's translated as "see".

So actually, the word providence itself appears only 2 times in scripture once in Acts 24, and once in Job 10, depending on what translation you use.

A mother may tell her child... "See to it that you clean your room before dinner" or a boss may say "see to it that the orders are all shipped out today". That's how it is used in this chapter...

God's providence is Him seeing to it that He provides for, sustains, and governs all things and that everything comes to pass according to His will...

In other words, we are not in control, nor should we try to be...

NO MATTER WHAT! AND THAT WILL BE AN IMPORTANT POINT THIS MORNING!

The Hebrews even had a name for God that reflected this... Jehovah-Jireh = God Provides!

To see to it... **THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT:**

Genesis 12:1-3

12 Now the Lord said to Abram,

“Go forth from your country,

And from your relatives

And from your father’s house,

To the land which I will show you;

2 And I will make you a great nation,

And I will bless you,

And make your name great;

And so you shall be a blessing;

3 And I will bless those who bless you,

And the one who curses you I will curse.

And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

Since it was God’s sovereign providential will that the Abrahamic covenant continued, the seed that was promised to Abraham and had to be passed to Isaac and then to Jacob

WHY WAS THAT SO IMPORTANT? WHAT IS HE SEEING TO?

And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

Blessed= The Line of Christ! THE PATH TO SALVATION

and that is where we will pick up the account...

First Failing: Issac's Manipulation

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."

A. A Growing Problem vv 1-2

Last week we saw the last two verses of chapter 26, actually belong in Chapter 27.

They tell us that when Esau was forty years old he married Judith who was a Canaanite woman (child sacrifice, worshiped idols and had pagan lifestyles) and they brought grief to Isaac and Rebekah.

Add to that the fact that Isaac is nearly blind, actually one might say he is really blind as we will see later that he can't even tell the difference between his two sons who despite their being very different looking people.

Isaac also tells Esau that he does not know how much longer he was going to live... But he in fact lived another 40 years to see the family mess he helped create... None of us know for sure how long we have...

Esau was the firstborn... but in Genesis 25, Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of "red stew" the red stuff in verse 30.

On the other hand, Jacob grasped Esau's heel at birth... his name then means "heel-grasper" or "supplanter... one who takes the place of someone else by force or deception." And we will see that a bit later. He was a quiet, simple man who stayed around the camp most of the time.

This growing problem begins back in Genesis 25:28...

"And Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob".

The trouble was that Isaac favored Esau and Rebekah favored Jacob. This favoritism created division and mistrust in the family and created an environment that fostered resentment and future conflict which we will see later...

B. Issac's Secrecy vv 3-4

In verses 3 and 4, Isaac privately instructs his favored son Esau (the firstborn and hunter) to hunt game, prepare a tasty meal, and bring it so Isaac can bless him before he dies.

Notice it is a meeting involving secrecy and urgency, like Lustig's scrap metal scam... There was no formal announcement or ceremony...

No party... no cake...

Issac should have known it was wrong... but he was determined to bless Esau, because he wanted to bless his firstborn who he favored more than Jacob...

And that is where we today can go wrong... because we can become tempted to follow or "FEELINGS" rather than the Word of God...

Isaac did not seek the Lords will, he did not pray, he did not seek counsel...

Isaac and Rebekah had heard from the Lord that Jacob was going to carry on the covenant promise... He knew from God's sovereign choice was Jacob yet he wanted to give Esau his blessing.

In some translations the word venison is used... likely the wild deer that lived in the area.

Limited time is important here...

Hunters? Esau was a skilled hunter. What is the window?

Like Lustig's Eiffel Tower scam, the deal with Esau seemed urgent and secret...

Why? Because it was opposed to the will of God and Isaac knew better.

Isaac was attempting to circumvent God's earlier prophecy (that the older would serve the younger) by trying to bless Esau in secret.

(Genesis 25:23).

23 And the Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger."

APPLICATION: For us today... When we do something in secret, it should immediately raise a red flag that maybe it is wrong... It is a big mistake to ignore the wisdom of God's Word and go with what we feel is right in our own eyes.

Proverbs 12:15 tells us...

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But a wise man is he who listens to counsel.

That also means the counsel of God found in His Word...

II. Second Failing: Rebekah's Scheme

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."

1. Rebekah's Manipulation (vv. 5-10)

Rebekah caught wind of what Isaac said to Esau... and probably thought... wait a minute... Esau is going to receive that blessing... NOT Jacob!!!

So she goes full mama bear and kicks into overdrive to protect her favorite son!

She acts to help along God's plan for Jacob... but in a deceptive manner.

Rebekah says something in verse 8 that is worth noting... Now therefore, my son, OBEY MY VOICE according to what I command you.

Look at what she's saying here is... Don't listen to God's voice but listen to me

Don't pray etc. Don't seek God's wisdom or His will... But rely only on me!

What is wrong with that?

11 Jacob answered his mother Rebekah, "Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy man and I am a smooth man. 12 Perhaps my father will feel me, then I will be as a deceiver in his sight, and I will bring upon myself a curse and not a blessing." 13 But his mother said to him, "Your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me."

What we see here that Jacob is more worried about getting caught than in the fact that what Rebekah is proposing is wrong... But he still participates in the scam!

2. Jacob's Lack of Conviction (11-17)

And she will say it again in verse 13... Your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me. You can just imagine her tone of voice here! She is on a mission... but sadly, it will lead to some horrible consequences.

Ezekiel 18:20 tells us... "The soul who sins is the one who will die. The son will not bear the iniquity of the father, nor will the father bear the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous man will fall upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked man will fall upon him."

APPLICATION: All of us will be judged on our own actions. We cannot carry or transfer guilt for someone else's wrongdoing before God.

WHO is the only One who can do that???

Jesus on the cross.

We will see in verses 14-17 that Rebekah made savory food such as his father loved. She took the garments of Esau and put them on Jacob. She put the skins of the young goats on his hands and neck. She cooked the goat to taste like venison... PROBABLY with Cumin, Garlic, Onion, Time, Fennel.... Probably not goat braised with adobo chiles...

These were the Oriental camel-goats, whose wool is reddish black and of a fine texture, and was often used as a substitute for human hair.

III. Third Failing: Jacob's Deception of Issac

A. Jacob Seeks to Deceive Isaac (vv 18-20)

18 Then he (JACOB) came to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?" 19 Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn; I have done as you told me. Get up, please, sit and eat of my game, that you may bless me." 20 Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have it so quickly, my son?" And he said, "Because the Lord your God caused it to happen to me."

The only thing worse than deceiving someone is doing it in the name of the Lord...Jacob willingness to lie and the blame on God is remarkable here... God can do no wrong and would never participate in a deception!

Turn with me to James 1:13-14

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

Then we see verse 22...

So Jacob came close to Isaac his father, and he felt him and said, “The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau.”

Notice again that Rebekah did everything she could to disguise her son Jacob except for one thing and that's his voice...

Hearing should have been enough for Isaac to discern the truth, but, as he had turned away from hearing God's Word with reference to his two sons, it was not surprising that he also ignored hearing as it also concerned the words of Jacob. He was a man who lived according to taste, smell, and feeling. Since his eyesight had faded.

Verse 20... Again Isaac ignored the facts...the game was served too soon to make sense, he went ahead with it anyway.

The famous 19th century preacher Charles Spurgeon once said, “He (Isaac) seems to have had SOME SORT OF MISTINESS OF SOUL at this time which was far worse (than his eyesight), and so he desired to give the blessing to Esau, whom God had determined should never have it.

Isaac was following his feelings... rather than what was right!

B. Integrity vs. "The End Justify the Means" (vv. 21-29)

27 So he came close and kissed him; and when he smelled the smell of his garments, he blessed him and said, “See, the smell of my son

Is like the smell of a field which the Lord has blessed;

28 Now may God give you of the dew of heaven,

And of the fatness of the earth,

And an abundance of grain and new wine;

29 May peoples serve you,

And nations bow down to you;

Be master of your brothers,

And may your mother's sons bow down to you.

Cursed be those who curse you,

And blessed be those who bless you.”

Rebekah and Jacob believed they were fulfilling a divine prophecy (that the older would serve the younger), but they used deceit to make it happen.

But as the old saying goes... two wrongs don't make a right...

It is curious that Jacob referred to God in this episode as "your God," thus answering the question after the manner of the irreligious Esau, who from this appears as one who had renounced all faith in God for himself.

APPLICATION: Why is all this recorded in the Bible? MOSES writes for the warning of believers in the past, present, and future, not to make Abraham, Issac and Jacob appear to be paragons of virtue. But as a lesson to us that we may avoid making the same mistakes. God can and does use flawed people to achieve his purposes... Most on Bible!

This brings us to the next section...

Even if we believe your goal is "right" or "destined," the methods we use matter. This chapter serves as a warning against moral shortcuts. Later in verse 41 we will see that Jacob learned that if he fooled around, he would find out!

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IV. Fourth Failing: Esau's Return

A. Fraud Exposed (vv. 30-33)

Let's look at the next 3 verses...

30 Now it came about, as soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had hardly gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting. 31 Then he also made savory food and brought it to his father; and he said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that you may bless me."

32 Isaac his father said to him, "Who are you?" And he said, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau." 33 Then Isaac trembled violently, and said, "Who was he then that hunted game and

brought it to me, so that I ate of all of it before you came, and blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed.”

In that culture, a patriarchal blessing was not just a pat on the back... it was a legally binding, prophetic contract. Once Isaac spoke the words over Jacob, he could not take them back, even though it was obtained through fraud...

So Isaac tied his own hands... he could not revoke his blessing... had he done so, he would again have interfered with God’s providential plan...

APPLICATION 200 years ago, the Scottish novelist Sir Walter Scott said this...

Oh, what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive!

As humans we tend to want to do take matters into our own hands... as opposed to trusting in the Lord to meet our needs...

Are you doing that NOW?

B. Esau’s Response (vv. 34-36)

34 When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, “Bless me, even me also, O my father!” 35 And he said, “Your brother came deceitfully and has taken away your blessing.” 36 Then he said, “Is he not rightly named Jacob, for he has supplanted me these two times? He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing.” And he said, “Have you not reserved a blessing for me?”

Esau’s feels robbed, betrayed, and angry. And not taking responsibility for selling his birthright for single meal...

He impulsively traded his entire future inheritance, leadership role, and double portion for a single meal of lentil stew when he was hungry. The Genesis 25:34 explicitly says he "despised" (treated with contempt) his birthright, showing a disregard for its long-term spiritual and material value in exchange for immediate gratification

B. The Pain of Loss (vv. 37-40)

37 But Isaac replied to Esau, “Behold, I have made him your master, and all his relatives I have given to him as servants; and with grain and new wine I have sustained him. Now as for you then, what can I do, my son?” 38 Esau said to his father, “Do you have only one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father.” So Esau lifted his voice and wept.

John MacArthur put it this way... Esau finally comes face to face with the monumental folly he committed by selling his birthright... In many ways he used a picture of those who reject Christ. He thought he did receive a blessing from his father but it was not the blessing of birthright there can only be one such blessing and once bestowed it can never be removed in that culture the birthright blessing is a wonderful picture of the security of our birthright as Christians our rebirth into the family of Christ brings all the blessings of His birthright as only the only begotten son of God and this inheritance can never be taken away from us.

PAUL WROTE THIS in Hebrews 12:15-17

15 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; 16 lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. 17 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.

John MacArthur also went on to say those who reject the spiritual birthright that God offers through his son Jesus Christ will also one day weep over the irreversible consequences of their rejection...

In Hebrews 12:15–17, which we just read, Esau is used as a warning: See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God... that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

APPLICATION Esau's actions illustrate the danger of prioritizing temporary pleasures over eternal/spiritual inheritance, serving as a caution against "profaneness" or godlessness.

That alone should cause all of us to examine ourselves for the same thing...

Esau didn't weep over his sin, he just wept over his loss. He didn't have repentance; he just had regret. Sometimes, when people sin, they are more sorry about getting caught or sorry about what they lost or about the way things didn't work out, than they are over breaking God's heart. Repentance is feeling sorry for what you've done, wanting God's forgiveness, and walking away from sin.

2 Corinthians 7:10 – "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death."

Isaac did give Esau a secondary blessing but it was one of hardships and conflict. We see it in verses 39-40

“Behold, away from the fertility of the earth shall be your dwelling,

And away from the dew of heaven from above.

40 “By your sword you shall live,

And your brother you shall serve;

But it shall come about when you become restless,

That you will break his yoke from your neck.”

The difference is that there is nothing in Esau's blessing which points at Christ; and without that, the fatness of the earth, and the plunder of the field, it means nothing...

Some consequences cannot be reversed, even with tears.

It reminds us of Matthew 7:23

And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’

10 APPLICATION:

Proverbs 19:21 tell us this:

"There are many devices in a man's heart... nevertheless, the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand."

This verse reminds us that while we may have plans, it is God's purpose that prevails. We can trust in God's Word and His provision in our lives, no matter what circumstances we face.

At first glance, this is a story of dysfunction and sin. But beneath the mess, God's sovereign hand is at work, fulfilling His promise that “the older will serve the younger” (Genesis 25:23)

A. Trust God to keep His promises

... WITHOUT resorting to moral compromise

Have you ever felt like compromising your integrity to get something you feel you deserve? Several years ago, I look some of the guys who worked for me and their wives out to dinner to celebrate a great annual results... One man innocently stood up and raised his glass to toast to their recent bonus checks!

On hearing that, one wife looked at her husband and asked, “What Bonus Checks?”

The upshot was that he had been using his bonus checks to make his unit look more profitable than it actually was so he would get promoted. Needless to say he did not get the promotion because of that lie... and later left the company.

We need to ask ourselves... Do we sometimes run off and try to speed or circumvent God’s will for our lives?

Or do we trust God?

Moses wrote these things as an example... for our admonition, and instruction.

Paul wrote this to Timothy IN 2 Timothy 3:16 and 17

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

B. SEEK HIS WILL and pray that it be done...

What is His will for us?

As Christians we should never trade the wisdom of God for what we feel or think or sense we should do...

It’s always best for us to pray and discern the will of God before acting.

How do we determine God’s will for our lives?

It is in plain sight in Scripture...

In Mark 12:30-31 Jesus said this:

30 and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ 31 The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Next...

In Matthew 17:5 When Jesus was baptized...

He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

God’s will is that you listen to Jesus words and put your trust in Him and be filled with His Holy Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 tells us this...

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification”

So, what is God's will?

John MacArthur summed this up well...

It is THAT YOU BE SAVED that YOU BE SPIRIT FILLED and YOU BE SANCTIFIED...

That is the will of God...

That we strive to become more Christlike...

What should we do then?

c. LIVE WITH HIS PROVISION IN VIEW

What is God's ULTIMATE PROVISION???

HIS provided us a path to Him through His Son Jesus Christ...

God created us...

He is Perfect and HE requires perfect obedience from us

but we have all rebelled by sinning... all of us myself included... and deserve God's wrath...

BUT THE GOSPEL'S good news is that Jesus died as a substitute for our sin.

SO... All who repent and have faith in Him are credited with His righteousness and are redeemed from eternal death and separation from God.

Christ showed by His resurrection that He ALONE has the POWER to conquer death and provide eternal life to all who repent and have faith in Him

If you have not yet trusted Jesus Christ or have questions...

FINALLY... If we look at Verse 41... It's where the consequences of this family's actions begin to unfold as ESAU vows to kill JACOB causing him to flee for his life...

But that.....my friends..... is a teaching..... for another day

Father God... Thank You for your Word... You are a God who Keeps His promises despite what we think or do. Lord, thank You that Your purposes will prevail even when we fail. Your plan is unshakable and unbreakable, even when life feels totally out of control. Help us to walk in truthfulness, love without favoritism, to trust Your timing and submit to You in all we do. In Jesus' name AMEN