

March 25th

THE CHEATER STRIKES AGAIN

“As soon as 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!” But he said, “Your brother came deceitfully, and he has taken away your blessing.” Esau said, “Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has cheated me these two times. He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing.” Then he said, “Have you not reserved a blessing for me?””

Genesis 27:34-36

“You can’t handle the truth! This line was given by Jack Nicholson in the film “A Few Good Men”. Without ruining the plot line, I will tell you it’s about a court trial within the United States Marine Corps. Someone died in their cell, and the film works at finding the truth behind the sudden death. The defense attorney demands, “I want the truth!” to which Nicholson’s character famously responds that people can’t handle the truth. The plot twists as they navigate who is lying and who is telling the truth. Is it any different in our day? People twist words and events around to fit their own sense of what really happened. When we turn to God’s Word, we see that lies and truth compete often in the lives of God’s people. What does God have to teach us about Jacob’s role in his deception here?

There’s plenty of blame to go around here in this event! Isaac ignores God’s promise about Jacob and Esau. Rebekah is desperate to make sure her favorite son receives the blessing. In this devotion, we’re going to focus on Jacob’s role. As you read this conversation with Isaac, can you count how many times Jacob lies? Go ahead and read it again. I count that Jacob lied four times. “Who are you, my son?” Jacob replies “I am Esau your firstborn.” Lie number one. “I have done as you told me.” Lie number two. “How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?” He answered, “Because the Lord your God granted me success.” Lie Number Three. “He said, ‘Are you really my son Esau?’ He answered, ‘I am.’” Lie number four.

Jacob has plenty of opportunities to be honest with his father, but he continues to follow the downward spiral of deception. It’s obvious to us how ugly this encounter is. But what might not be as clear to you is where the deception comes from. What is the root of Jacob’s lies? Why does he resort to manipulation and lies so often? The answer is found in Jacob’s third lie. God gives us a small clue to the deeper sin that is found in Jacob’s heart. Look again to see what Jacob says. “Because the Lord your God granted me success.” Notice what Jacob doesn’t say about God...my God. Instead, he calls God Isaac’s God, but not his. Jacob has fallen into the trap of seeking the blessings that Isaac’s God promised instead of seeking the God who promised.

Jacob struggles with lies and manipulation to bring his own success. He worships the ideas of prominence and blessing. He only uses God as a ploy to get what he craves...blessing. His heart can’t see that the greatest blessing is right in front of him...the presence of Almighty God. You can trace this sin in Jacob’s life all throughout his history. Men, are we any different? While you many not struggle with lying like Jacob, there is always a tension present in our hearts...devotion to our King or devotion to our idols. Which master will you serve today?

Spend some time reflecting on how special it is to have a relationship with God. Thank Him for sweet fellowship.

For Further Reading: Genesis 27:1-40