

Sermon Notes 9 17 26

Isaac & Jacob #10: The Art of Avoidance

Genesis 31:17-55

Big Idea: When confronted with our sin God calls us to humble, honest repentance.

Transition: The passage gives us five ways sinners practice the art of avoidance.

1) R_____ the past, 26-27

Truth: A heart unwilling to repent will rewrite the past to make itself look right.

2) T_____ the opposition, 29

Truth: A heart unwilling to repent will use power to make itself look right.

3) D_____ the accusation, 30 & 43

Truth: A heart unwilling to repent will deflect the accusation rather than face the truth.

4) A_____ the character, 50

Truth: A heart unwilling to repent will attack another's character rather than examine its own.

5) E_____ the blame, 53

Truth: A heart unwilling to repent will equalize the blame rather than acknowledge its own guilt.

Application Questions

- 1) When I am confronted with sin, do I face it or explain it away?

Action: The next time someone points out something wrong in your life, resist the urge to immediately defend yourself. Ask, “Could there be truth in what they are saying?”

- 2) Where am I tempted to rewrite the story to make myself look right?

Action: Identify one situation where you have been rehearsing your version of events. Honestly acknowledge your part in what happened, even if the other person was also wrong.

- 3) What am I currently hiding, minimizing, or avoiding?

Action: Bring that matter into the light. Confess it to God, and where appropriate, confess it to the person you have wronged. Stop managing the appearance of the sin and start dealing with the sin itself.

- 4) Am I more concerned about avoiding the consequences of sin than turning from the sin itself?

Action: Ask God to so deeply convict your heart of your sin that it leads to genuine repentance—not merely sorrow because you were caught or frustration over the consequences. Confess it, forsake it, and take whatever steps are necessary to walk differently.