

A Dramatic Story

Isaac – A Man Who is Blind in Two Ways

Physically and spiritually blind

Vs. 1 – His eyes were dim

“It may also be implied that Isaac’s physical loss of sight reflects an inner blindness that makes him oblivious to Esau’s shortcoming and God’s purpose for Jacob.” – ESV Study Bible

Dim to the things of God

1. He calls and blesses only one son. (Compare to Jacob blessing his sons Gen. 48-49)
2. He asks for him to hunt game for him so that he may bless him before he dies.
3. A faith not worth imitating
 - a. Jacob does not acknowledge Yahweh as being his own God, see verse 20.
 - b. Esau marrying foreign women and adopting their gods, see verses 34-35.
4. Trembles at the wrong thing (not at God, at consequences of own sin), compare to Exodus 19:16.

These are warnings us for who strive to be men of God

More than anything, be a loving, present father. 1 Peter 4:8

Don’t give in to passivity “Isaac and Esau are alike in putting appetite before principle, self-indulgence before justice, immediate satisfaction before long-term spiritual values.” – Gordon Wenham

There is no surefire way to make your kids believe and walk with God when they grow up

Rebekah – A Woman Whose Inside and Outside Doesn’t Match

Physically beautiful but ugly on the inside

Genesis 24:16 “Rebekah was very beautiful.” Sinclair Ferguson says, “Drop dead gorgeous.”

True beauty comes from the inside

Manipulation

Not the slightest bit of respect for her husband

Teaching her child wrong (after all, where does Jacob learn his tricks and deception?)

Where is her love for Esau?

Sin will always eventually backfire

Numbers 32:23 – “...behold, you have sinned against the LORD, and be sure your sin will find you out.”

Esau – A Son Who Does Not Deserve the Blessing

Idolatry

Selfishness – “All the sons should have been invited to receive a blessing... [Esau] went along with this scheme; now he is left with nothing.” – Gordon Wenham

Premeditating Murder

Jacob – A Son Who Is the Object of Pure Grace

Undeserving to the max

1. Blasphemes God (vs. 20)
2. No sense of right and wrong (vss. 11-12) “No mom, this is wrong!” vs. “No mom, this won’t work!”
3. Lying to and dishonoring his father (vs. 21)

A picture of grace

Romans 9:11-13 “Though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls—¹²she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” ¹³As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.””

Acts 2:39 “For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

Questions for Personal Study

1. Do the stories of any of these ancient characters resonate with you? Why?
2. Why do you think that the Bible is so clear about the failures of its main characters?
3. Is there any sin that is wrecking your family? What is your part in fighting it?
4. If the promised blessing is for sinners, do you count yourself as a sinner? Why or why not?