

In 1806, the author and poet Sir Walter Scott wrote a poem called, Marmion – A Tale of Flodden Field. This poem depicted a romance where there was intrigue and deception. From this poem this very familiar phrase was coined:

Oh, what a tangled web we weave, went at first, we practice to deceive.

Well, I believe those very words can be applied to the story we will be reading tonight from Genesis Chapter 27. So, turn to Genesis Chapter 27. As you are turning, I want to share a quote from the book the staff is reading, Suffering, by Paul David Tripp. Follow along by looking at the screens.



I think it is very important for every sufferer to reflect on how utterly, unashamedly, and boldly honest the Bible is. From Genesis 3 on, the biblical writers don't present to us a sanitized version of life. The Bible presents a broken world populated by fallen people where nothing or no one functions in the way that God intended. The world that the Bible presents is a world you will recognize because it's just like the world you live in with all of its dysfunctions, disappointments, painful trials, and universal suffering. Paul David Tripp

I completely agree that the Bible does not pull any punches. We see life and we can find ourselves in so many of the examples given to us through the people's lives that are shared with us from the Bible. What we are going to see tonight is another example of why the Bible is God's Word and is the truth about all things, for all time.

Tonight, we see, well, I started to say, the good, the bad, and the ugly within the family of Jacob and Rebekah but what we are going to see tonight is just the bad, and the ugly!

Genesis 27:1-4

¹ When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called Esau his older son and said to him, “My son”; and he answered, “Here I am.” ² He said, “Behold, I am old; I do not know the day of my death. ³ Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me, ⁴ and prepare for me delicious food, such as I love, and bring it to me so that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die.”

As we begin to look at this event in the lives of Isaac, Rebekah, Esau and Jacob, we will see it all revolve around a blessing. What was this blessing and why was there so much significance behind it?

During that time there was what was called a Father’s Deathbed blessing to the oldest son. This blessing is similar to what we have been talking about of passing the baton. This was not necessarily the passing the baton of faith on to the son, that should have been accomplished as the child is growing up.

It is a blessing to pass on the inheritance from the father to this son to receive a double portion of the inheritance. But also, it was a blessing of continued health, prosperity, and protection throughout their life.

In fact we see the wording of the blessing in verses 28 and 29.

Genesis 27:28-29

***²⁸ May God give you of the dew of heaven
and of the fatness of the earth
and plenty of grain and wine.***

***²⁹ Let peoples serve you,
and nations bow down to you.***

***Be lord over your brothers,
and may your mother's sons bow down to you.***

***Cursed be everyone who curses you,
and blessed be everyone who blesses you!”***

That is a pretty strong and wonderful blessing. Again, the blessing is to go to the oldest son who was to take over the inheritance. Of course, all true blessings come from God. The father, Isaac, in this case, did not have much control over how the life of his sons would end up after his death. What we have a small amount of control over is again if we are passing on the faith! Are we training our children in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

The question is, “Who was supposed to receive this blessing?” Evidently Isaac still felt Esau was supposed to receive it. What have we learned though?

What we learned is that while Esau and Jacob were in the womb of Rebekah that God said that the older would serve the younger. Who came out first? Esau! With Jacob in tow right behind Esau holding on to Esau’s heel. We also learned that Isaac loved Esau because he loved the game that Esau would give to Isaac and Rebekah loved Jacob because he stayed with her around the house. There was favoritism within the family!

We also learned the condition of Esau’s heart. He had no desire for the things of God. Esau even despised his birthright so much he was willing to just give it over for a bowl of soup. As for Esau, we left last week with the

fact he married two Hittite women and it made life bitter and kept a constant tension between Esau and his parents.

Was this an intentional attempt of disobedience by Isaac towards God to place Esau over Jacob? Or was it just Isaac's favoritism of Esau wanting him to have something before God's promise is completely enacted.

Either way, it was going against God's sovereignty and it began a snowball effect of deceit and lies. Because there was someone listening to this conversation between Isaac and Esau.

Genesis 27:5-13

⁵ Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to his son Esau. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for game and bring it, ⁶ Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "I heard your father speak to your brother Esau, ⁷ 'Bring me game and prepare for me delicious food, that I may eat it and bless you before the Lord before I die.' ⁸ Now therefore, my son, obey my voice as I command you. ⁹ Go to the flock and bring me two good young goats, so that I may prepare from them delicious food for your father, such as he loves. ¹⁰ And you shall bring it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he dies." ¹¹ But Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Behold, my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man. ¹² Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be mocking him and bring a curse upon myself and not a blessing." ¹³ His mother said to him, "Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, bring them to me."

It has always been speculated that Rebekah was eaves dropping. That she saw Esau go into the tent where Isaac was, and it was like, "Hmmm, I wonder what is going on here!" Because of what we just read I would lean towards eavesdropping and not just being in the vicinity of the tent. Though the promise and prophecy had already been proclaimed by God, Rebekah decides the Lord needs her help as well.

When it comes to the fulfilling of God's will, God does not need us to help in the planning and the fulfillment of his will. God needs us to be willing and to be obedient and allow him to direct the processes to his fulfilling his promise. I get it! It looks bleak here, doesn't it? It looks like Isaac is going to thwart all that God had promised about Jacob being the one to lead after Isaac's death!

So, deception and lies begin to take place.

What is Jacob's role in this? One of complicity! There is no objection of, "Mother, we should not do this!" It's, I can't cook, I'm not hairy like my brother. What if we are found out, what if Daddy finds out I am deceiving him and I am cursed instead of blessed?

Unfortunately, that is how we look at our sin a lot of times. It's not that we are burdened over our sin, it's not that we have a loathing of our sin against God, it's the fact that we are afraid someone may find out. We don't repent and turn from our sin, we continue to hide it, hoping we won't get caught! We are always found out because who is always watching? God!

We also can become complicit to the fact we won't speak against sin because of the fear of man or woman, whatever the case. Rebekah continues this deception, that she is confident it is going to succeed, she tells Jacob that she will take any consequences that may come. Look at verse 13 again.

Genesis 27:13

¹³ His mother said to him, "Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, bring them to me."

Everyone, we are told, commanded, to obey our parents, correct? But, if what they are telling or asking us to do, goes against God's Word, we are to question that request.

Rebekah is perpetuating lies and deceits here, the ends do not justify the means by which she is making sure that Jacob receives this blessing.

Whose voice are you obeying? Of course, the voice that we should be obeying is God's. The Israelites did not listen to God, and they wandered the wilderness for 40 years and many died and were not able to see the promised land. When we say, "Are we listening to God, we can also say, Are obeying God?" My question to each of us is, "Can we remember a time we did not listen to God, obey God and we went through our own wilderness?"

I can! What a mess! Consequences, consequences! There are consequences to sin! Rebekah tells Jacob, no matter what happens, I will take the blame, may the curse fall on me. In verses 14 to 17, Jacob does what she asks, Rebekah fixes the meal, and puts the skins of the goat on Jacob's hands and neck and Jacob puts on some of Esau's clothes. The web has been spun! We will see how this plot unfolds. Let's read verses 18-27

Genesis 27:18-27

¹⁸ So he went in 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; now sit up and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me." ²⁰ But Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?" He answered, "Because the Lord your God granted me success." ²¹ Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not." ²² So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, who felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." ²³ And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands. So he blessed him. ²⁴ He said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He answered, "I am." ²⁵ Then he said, "Bring it near to me, that I may eat of my son's game and bless you." So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank. ²⁶ Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near and kiss me, my son." ²⁷ So he came near and kissed him. And Isaac smelled the smell of his garments and blessed him and said, "See, the smell of my son is the smell of the field that the Lord has blessed!"

We continue to see the snowball effect of this deception. Jacob now, not only has brought the food, put on the clothes, and goat hair on his body. Now, he has to open his mouth and with his very words, lie to his father! This is where Jacob has to start telling lies to cover the other lies. The whole-time taking advantage of Jacob's weakened condition.

What is worse than all that, he invokes God's name into his success! Yehovah Elohim, The Lord God! Jacob invokes the name of God, who cannot lie, into being a part of his lie! We have that happen from time to time! Using the terms that God made me this way to attempt to affirm homosexual lifestyles. Invoking God's name when people say, "Only God can judge me!"

Correct! But he is going to judge all of us by his Word. John 12:48 says:

John 12:48

⁴⁸ The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

Once again, we see God's Word, the Bible, is the authority for all things of life and for judgment because it declares what sin is, what sin is not, and the way to receive forgiveness for our sins so we may have eternal life in heaven and not eternal life in Hell. So, we go and compassionately warn those that are lost to repent for they will be judged by the standard that is given to us and that is the Word of God.

Well, we have already read the covenant blessing that Isaac receives. Isaac comes over and kisses his dad. An expression of love. Can you actually be showing love if you are lying to that person? No! After that kiss, Isaac blesses Jacob! The deed is done! Nothing left but the consequences to come into the open. It begins with Esau returning to the tent of Isaac.

Genesis 27:30-40

³⁰ As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, when Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, Esau his brother came in from his hunting. ³¹ He also prepared delicious 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 His father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?" He answered, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau." ³³ Then Isaac trembled very violently and said, "Who was it then that hunted game and brought it to me, and I ate it all before you came, and I have blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed." ³⁴ 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!" ³⁵ But he said, "Your brother came deceitfully, and he has taken away your blessing." ³⁶ 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?" ³⁷ Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Behold, I have made him lord over you, and all his brothers I have given to him for servants, and with grain and wine I have sustained him. What then can I do for you, my son?" ³⁸ Esau said to his father, "Have you but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father." And Esau lifted up his voice and wept. ³⁹ Then Isaac his father answered and said to him:

***"Behold, away from the fatness of the earth shall your dwelling be,
and away from the dew of heaven on high.***

***⁴⁰ By your sword you shall live,
and you shall serve your brother;
but when you grow restless
you shall break his yoke from your neck."***

What do we see? We see a father brought to a point of despair as he is trembling violently realizing the deceit that had been perpetrated upon him. A son crying out in earnest to receive the blessing of which he had no right to at this time. Esau loathed his birthright and sold it for one simple meal.

Esau stands before his father, crying for the blessing! But Esau was not before Isaac in true repentance, he just wanted the blessing of what he had thrown away because of his own godlessness. Hebrews 12, verses 15 to 17 describes this.

Hebrews 12:15-17

¹⁵ See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God, that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble and by it many become defiled. ¹⁶ that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. ¹⁷ For you know afterward when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

What Esau has displayed here is that he wanted the blessings of God, but he did not want God! Esau wanted the material blessings of this life, and to live a life of his own choosing, not in obedience to God and hardened his heart to the point to where there is no hope of forgiveness of sin for Esau.

The blessing or it could even be considered a curse, that Esau received was not one of living where there is fertile land but in one of a wasteland, Esau would have to fight for his provision. Esau would be under the yoke

of his brother, therefore, the older serving the younger. We will see in due time though, there would come a release from this yoke as a nation, the Edomites, will be set up through Esau

We now see this snowball effect as the pain and the consequences continue to grow! Lets read verses 41 to 46.

Genesis 27:41-46

⁴¹ Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob.” ⁴² But the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son and said to him, “Behold, your brother Esau comforts himself about you by planning to kill you. ⁴³ Now therefore, my son, obey my voice. Arise, flee to Laban my brother in Haran ⁴⁴ and stay with him a while, until your brother's fury turns away— ⁴⁵ until your brother's anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him. Then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereft of you both in one day?”

⁴⁶ Then Rebekah said to Isaac, “I loathe my life because of the Hittite women. If Jacob marries one of the Hittite women like these, one of the women of the land, what good will my life be to me?”

Hate! Hate that has brought Esau to plot a time that he would kill his brother. Esau, anticipating that Isaac would die soon, then he would take care of who would get this blessing once and for all. Esau has forgotten something here. God has already spoken! God has put his sovereign plan into motion! No deceit or lies would have ever stopped the will of God to be accomplished!

We continue to see the effects of the deception pile up here. Rebekah finds out what Esau had planned, so she develops a plan of her own. To send her favorite son, Jacob, away. I find something a little interesting here in her plan. Look at verses 43, 44, and 45 again.

Genesis 27:43-45

⁴³ Now therefore, my son, obey my voice. Arise, flee to Laban my brother in Haran ⁴⁴ and stay with him a while, until your brother's fury turns away— ⁴⁵ until your brother's anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him. Then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereft of you both in one day?”

Shouldn't there have been a “we” in that comment? To think Rebekah came out unscathed here would be a mistake. What we see through the rest of this story is that she will never see her favorite son again. You see her torment of the fact that Esau had married Hittite women and that had made life bitter and now the thought that Jacob could marry a woman from Canaan. Too much for her to consider!

So, what did we see here? Simple really! Lies and deception cause so much pain! Going against God's sovereignty and will also causes chaos and struggles that are not necessary if we would obey and trust in his Word.

As we know, Satan is the great deceiver! Scripture tells us that he is a liar and deceiver from the beginning.

2 Corinthians 4:4

⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

I want to close with us by having a picture of Esau in our minds tonight. Think of him loathing, hating his birthright! Then with a life that has no thought of God or following God in obedience. He stands before his Dad begging for a blessing! When he realizes it is too late, he weeps!

Isn't that a picture of a lost soul? Isn't that a picture of us at a time in our lives. Even if they or us in our sin recognize that God exists, we didn't want God, only wanting the things of this world. Whether it be from fear of a family member, friends, mankind in general. Maybe it is arrogance that we don't need to repent, we stand deceived, and it will bring pain and heartache in our lives!

There is a time that everyone will stand before Jesus Christ and for many it will be too late for the blessing of salvation and the curse is a wasteland called Hell!

May we not be the ones lying and deceiving. May we present the truth of God's Word with a compassion and boldness from the Holy Spirit of God.