

Hebrews 11:21 - Isaac Jacob Joseph

20-22

Isaac

- talk about dysfunctional- here it is
- But verses like this are really just showing the sovereignty of God
- Isaac really loved Esau because he was a hunter
- Isaac is a meat eater
- But God had already spoken to Rebecca about through whom the promise would come

Gen. 25:22-23

- somehow somehow, Isaac didn't take this promise seriously
- But Isaac has the responsibility to go to God and ask for wisdom
- And so what do you do wives - when you know you're right and your husband's wrong
- You've never experienced that
- What would one do if you encounter this situation?
- She kicks into survival mode
- Then Rebecca doesn't fully trust the Lord either and comes up with her own plan to help God out
- And she's gonna do it even if she has to use manipulative, coercive, addictive methods
- And so she goes to Jacob and says hey go get that old Halloween costume you remember the one with all the fur
- And be Esau for the day
- Rebecca had a good heart and a right motive, but still did the wrong thing
- You see what's happening here?
- The deadness of the word of God in Isaac's life is flowing down into the heart of his wife, Rebecca, and she's now using deceit to get this accomplished
- So now Isaac and Rebecca are deceiving one another
- And Esau fails in the story as well because he sells his birthright for soup and is marrying heathen women
- And Jacob's going along with the deceit of his mother and lying to his dad directly
- Messed up family - beautiful soap opera here
- And immediately we self righteously think God it's gonna throw this

family out

- **Vs. 20**
- This does not seem like it's by faith
- It seems like it's by feud, foolishness or deceit
- But what is the writer of Hebrews talking about here?
- Get this?
- This is important because if you don't get little nuances in the scripture like this, you will think that there's contradictions or whitewashing over
- There are no contradictions. The bottom line is that God tells the story like it is.
- God is a truth teller. He doesn't cover anything up.
- There is no darkness in him at all
- So what's really happening here? Why can the writer of Hebrews say by faith this was done?
- 2 reasons
- The blessings were based on the promises of God
- Even though Isaac didn't initially want to bless Jacob, he realizes it a little bit later
- **Gen. 27:33**
- **Gen. 28:1-4**

These are not just some whimsical words of an old man

- rather, these are the authoritative applicable promises of the word of God
- #2 - And on the provisions of God
- Future blessings
- **Vs. 20**
- By faith, even concerning an unseen future Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau
- Even in the Greek is intensive
- Because at this point they don't have the land they don't have millions of people yet
- They are not a mighty people
- It's an unseen future, but these men went to the grave believing it
- Banking on it
- And it doesn't matter that I cannot see it With my physical eyes
- God is going to come through. He never fails.

Initially, we see Jacob as a schemer and a guy who plots and twist things to get his own way

- but the crazy reality in the Bible is that it says the God of Jacob more than any other name
- And that gives me a lot of hope because there's a lot of Jacob in you and me
- But Jacob's biggest problem is he likes to help God out
- Jacob has a passion for the things of God
- But doesn't always go about the right way in getting them
- And it's almost as if he likes to cover for God
- And none of that Sojourn is brought before us here in Hebrews
- And the Holy Spirit only gives us this sort of final moment with Jacob
- And it says he blesses each of the sons of Joseph, which were Ephrem and Manassa
- It says he gave each of them a different blessing
- Distinct blessings
- He knew that his days were coming to an end
- And so it says he worshiped on his staff
- And he's had this staff his whole life
- When he came into Bethel at the beginning of his life, he said all I brought was the staff

And it's very interesting because there's so much written about the life of Jacob, but for some reason, the spirit of God only gives this last part of his life, really just this last moment

- and it's as if the spirit is saying if you really wanna know about the faith of Jacob here it is in fruition
- And I think Jacob is looking back at his life, realizing that God had him covered at every one of those junctures

God appears to Abraham 7 times

- to Isaac 2 times
- To Jacob 5 times - all corrective in nature

Gen. 48

- **15** - fed - shepherd
- **16** - redeemed - goel
- I look back and I see God shepherding me
- He redeemed me, my goel - kinsman redeemer

Remarkable scene here

- these boys are half Egyptian keep in mind
- Born in Egypt
- Jacob says they're mine I want them
- But think about it for a moment, they could've had whatever they wanted in a worldly sense
- But Jacob's primary concern is that the tribes of Israel continue and that his body is taken back to the promised land
- Why?
- Because he knew that God's claim was on that piece of land
- And the first time the words, shepherded and redeemed are used in scriptures in the life of Jacob
- And that brings me great joy and great hope
- Because there's a lot of Jacob tendencies in my heart where I need to be shepherded and redeemed
- And I love the scene because it's the end of Jacob's life and he's filled with Holy Spirit and he has all his kids and grandkids around him and he's pronouncing blessing and when he's finished, he gets back in bed and blastoff
- What a way to go
- Or David at the end of his life, he calls himself the sweet psalmist
- not the greatest king, not the greatest warrior, not the greatest theologian, not the giant slayer,
- but the sweet psalmist
- And by faith, he blesses Ephraim and Manasse these two Egyptian boys, and he says they're in the line of Israel
- And Ephraim the lesser, the younger would be the dominant tribe

Life of Jacob

- when Jacob fled from his brother, he saw all he took with him was that staff
- And God appeared to him five times
- The first time was at Bethel and he had the stairway to Heaven vision
- And God told Jacob I want you to go to Padan Aram, and God was setting up his course
- Because he was running after deceiving his father and his brother being mad enough to kill him
- So he goes to Padan Aram, and he gets Jacobed by Laban his own kin
- And he falls in love with a girl named Rachel
- And he has to work for her for seven years, but it only seems to him as

one day

- The wedding day comes he might have one too many to drink. He wakes up to Rachel's sister Leah.
- And he goes to Laban, of course upset, and Laban says we have a custom. The older sister Mary's before the younger.
- Then he works another seven years for Rachel
- And God blesses Jacob abundantly
- So abundantly that Laban gets jealous of him
- And God appears to him a second time and says to him get out of here
- And Laban begins to chase him from behind, but up ahead of him he has his hairy brother in front of him
- So Laban catches up with him and they figure out a semi peace treaty
- But he's still really afraid of what's up in front of him so he sends a bunch of animals first then his kids and his wives and he says I'll stay behind and he asks God to bless this plan
- But it's when he's really afraid that God meets with him because God is not in the business of humiliating anyone
- But when God gets you alone, he will wrestle with you just like he did with Jacob
- And there are things in our lives he wants to wrestle out of our lives
- And I'm so thankful that his goal is not to humiliate any of us and that he doesn't put all of my faults up on the PowerPoint this morning
- But he will wrestle with you when you're alone
- And Jacob wrestles all night with God and the Lord is about to leave and Jacob says no you have to bless me
- And the Lord says to him what is your name?
- The last time you heard that question was from his dad Isaac and Jacob lied to him
- This time he hears that same question what is your name and he says my name is Jacob heel catcher
- And God says to him I'm changing your name. You are no longer heel catcher conniver schemer. You are now governed by God.
- Shechem
- God appears again and says what are you doing here you're supposed to be in Bethel
- He takes off for Bethel and Rachel dies on the side of the road having Benjamin
- And by this time, he's an old man
- And this is where our text is we find an old man who is blind, but spiritually his hindsight and his foresight is 2020

- And he wants Joseph and these boys to know that God has come along and corrected all my train wrecks and he has shepherded me and fed me the whole way
- He pulls himself up on his staff and worships
- And he realizes his life has been redeemed

How many of us this morning? Have had problems like this.

- A brother who hates you or who you hate
- Taking the family inheritance
- Lord, why you stick me in this family?
- We're working for somebody who rips us off
- Where are you God? I've been honest. I haven't done anything wrong and I'm getting fired.
- Or you find out that your daughter is pregnant by unbeliever
- Or your son has committed a horrific crime
- Or a loved ones gone to prison
- Or you have a son or a daughter in rehab?
- This is about you getting alone with God
- Jacob would say to you and I today in all of those circumstances God was with me
- The faithfulness of God
- My goel was there-my kinsman redeemer
- And God gives us this beautiful picture of an old man leaning and worshiping on his staff, looking back at his life and sang by faith my God took care of me
- And that's where he wants to get each and everyone of us