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## The Choice

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### The Story Genesis 25

### Sermon Notes

1. Families are messy and require the grace of God.
  - Your dysfunction does not disqualify you. It just makes you eligible for His grace.
2. God is sovereign but He wants us to be involved in His plan.
3. Don't give up your eternal inheritance for momentary satisfaction.

### My Story

1. Looking back over your notes, what did you find most helpful, challenging, or interesting in this week's teaching? Was there anything you've never heard before or something that made you think differently?
2. Do you find it easy or difficult to wait for something? Why do you think that is?
3. Jenn said Abraham's story isn't a Hallmark movie but real life. How does that statement resonate with you?
4. In Genesis 25:21, we see Isaac pray, and the Lord answered. What are your thoughts on this? How has God answered prayer when you've prayed for something important to you?

# In The Beginning

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5. Have you been or are you in a situation where you have been struggling with something, prayed persistently and intensely, and didn't think you've received an answer? How are you continuing to trust the Lord in this situation? Have you sought prayer from other believers in this situation? How?
6. In the story of Jacob and Esau, we read about the sibling rivalry and parental favoritism going on in their lives. Have you experienced sibling rivalry or parental favoritism? How has that impacted your life? How have you/are you dealing with that? Have you managed to be humble and forgive/seek forgiveness in that situation?
7. Jenn said, "your dysfunction does not disqualify you; it just makes you eligible for His grace." What do you think of this point? Have you seen this true in your life or in the life of someone you know? How?
8. A definition of delayed gratification is the mark of maturity that puts you on the path to greatness. Do you tend to live for the moment, or are you willing to delay your gratification? Why do you think that is?
9. Waiting on the Lord is part of our walk with Jesus. What does waiting on the Lord look like in your life? How are you waiting on the Lord? Is there anything that helps you remain faithful as you wait on the Lord?

## **Digging Deeper**

*Read through these guiding scriptures and answer the corresponding questions.*

*Read Genesis 25:19-34*

1. In the situation with Jacob and Esau regarding the birthright, both brothers were in the wrong. How was Jacob in the wrong? How was Esau in the wrong? Do you think one's perspective was more dangerous or damaging?
2. Can you at all relate to either brother?
3. Can you think of a time when you acted like Jacob and were overly prideful and mistreated or cheated on a family member or loved one? What happened with that relationship? Have you taken any steps to humble yourself and restore that relationship?

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4. Can you think of a time when you acted like Esau and were willing to trade the goodness of God and His will for something very temporary and worthless? What happened?

*Read Romans 12:18*

1. When you read this passage, can you think of a time when you lived this way?
2. Can you think of a time or times when you have fallen short?
3. How do you think you are doing overall with meeting the expectation God gives us in Romans 12:18? If you're not doing well with it, what can you do about that?

*Read Hebrews 12:2 and 12:16*

1. What do you see as the differences between Esau and Jesus?
2. Do you find yourself relating more with one over the other?
3. What can you do to live like Jesus rather than like Esau?

## **Bringing It Home**

1. When Jenn says all families are messy and require the grace of God, how does that apply to your family? What are you doing as your part to shine the light, love, and grace of Jesus into your family?
2. Unrealistic expectations in relationships make things worse. Think hard about your most important relationships. What expectations do you have for the other person? Are those expectations realistic? Are they fair? Have you properly communicated your expectations, and the other person agreed to them?
3. Jenn said, "your dysfunction does not disqualify you; it just makes you eligible for His grace." Is this true in your life? Would you like it to be true if you haven't seen it true in your life? What (specifically) can you do to make it true in your life?

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4. Jenn said having healthy boundaries is important. What is a healthy boundary? What is an unhealthy boundary? Where do you have healthy and unhealthy boundaries in any of your relationships? What can you do to turn those unhealthy boundaries into healthy ones?
5. One of Jenn's points was that "God is sovereign, but our prayers do matter." Do you believe your prayers matter? Are you living like your prayers matter? How?
6. What specifically are you struggling with right now? What are you doing about it? Have you taken a tangible step of faith in humbling yourself, sharing what's going on, and asking other Christians to pray over you in person? Not posting on social media that you could use prayer, but speaking in person to specific Christians for God to intercede in your struggle?
7. "We are all cursed with the madness of Esau. We inherit it from Adam and Eve, who chose one bite of fruit over eternal joy with God. We are all afflicted with congenital, culpable irrationality." How has this been true in your life? How can this curse be broken? What steps are you taking to live like Jesus rather than like Esau?
8. Read Hebrews 12:1. Why is Jesus called the pioneer and perfecter of faith? How are you throwing off everything that hinders you and the sin that entangles you? How are you running with perseverance the race marked out for you? How are you fixing your eyes on Jesus?

*\*If you need help with understanding and establishing healthy boundaries in your relationships, check out the book: Boundaries by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend. More info here: <https://www.drcloud.com/books/boundaries>.*