

CCLEB SERMON NOTES



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GENESIS 27:1-46

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THE FATHER'S BLESSING



I grew up hearing that my family had a large inheritance in Spain. Even though I was born in Cuba, my roots come from there. I remember my family talking often about how to claim that inheritance, but they could never agree. It all seemed so complicated that, because of a lack of unity and action, it was never claimed.

Today, we're going to look at another inheritance story—not about material wealth, but a blessing passed from Abraham to Isaac, and from Isaac to Jacob, the one God chose. In this chapter, we'll see a divided family, marked by deception and manipulation. Yet through it all, we learn this truth: the Father's blessing isn't gained by manipulation but received by grace. At the end of the previous chapter, we're told that Esau's wives made life miserable for Isaac and Rebekah.

Genesis 26:34-35

These women were Hittites, part of the Canaanite tribes descended from Heth, a son of Canaan. Why is this important? It is important because Abraham had made his servant swear that Isaac would never marry a Canaanite woman.

Genesis 24:3

But somewhere along the way, it seems like Isaac never passed that same conviction to his son . . . And that decision started causing real problems in the family.

By the time we get to **chapter 27**, the family is already divided — Isaac and Rebekah aren't on the same page. They're both more focused on what they want than on what God wants.

So, Isaac had a secret plan, a plan to pass the blessing to his favorite son, Esau, without even telling Rebekah or seeking God's direction.

Genesis 27:1-4

Isaac was old and could barely see, but his problem wasn't just with his eyes. He was also losing sight of what God had said, what God had clearly spoken about this matter.

Genesis 25:23

In other words, God had already chosen Jacob to carry the promise, not Esau. But Isaac's blindness wasn't only physical... he was also becoming blind to God's will.

Why do I say that? Because instead of following God's direction, Isaac followed his own desire. He trusted his feelings and traditions more than God's revelation.

Isaac loved Esau, his firstborn, the hunter, and the son who made him proud.

And in those days, the firstborn was naturally favored – he was expected to lead the family, carry on the name, and receive the greatest share of the inheritance.

So, Isaac went with what was normal in his culture, instead of what was revealed by God.

He said, "I don't know when I may die," acting out of fear, and decided to bless Esau right away, the son who pleased him most. But here's the thing: Isaac wasn't actually dying. He lived about 43 more years after this moment.

His choice wasn't led by faith, but by fear and favoritism, trying to secure his own will instead of trusting God.

While Isaac was secretly planning to bless Esau, someone else was listening.

Rebekah overheard everything, and when she realized what Isaac was about to do, she quickly came up with a plan of her own.

Genesis 27:5-13

Rebekah came up with a plan. She knew God's promise. Years earlier, God told her clearly that "the older will serve the younger." She wasn't wrong about what God had said; she was wrong about how it would happen. When she saw Isaac about to bless Esau, she panicked and took control.

Brothers and sisters, this is where many of us stumble. We believe God's promises but struggle to trust in His timing or His methods. Instead of trusting God to fulfill His word in His way and His time, we try to make it happen ourselves.

We don't need to help God keep His promises. He is faithful, and He always works things out in His time, not ours.

This moment reminds me of Sarah, when she came to Abram with her own plan to "help" God fulfill His promise.

This is a reminder for us too: we don't have to panic or manipulate when things don't go our way. God is in control. No matter what plans people make, God's plan will always prevail. Just like **Proverbs 19:21** says.

Although Rebekah had a plan, we also see her son Jacob struggling with concern.

But notice this: he wasn't worried about how wrong or deceptive the plan was. He was only worried about getting caught and about his father realizing he was trying to deceive him.

The truth is that's exactly what he was doing. Jacob was a deceiver.

But his mother gave him the green light, saying, "If this goes wrong, I'll take the blame."

So, Jacob agreed and went along with her plan, and together, they put everything in motion to trick Isaac, and that's exactly what we see in the next verses.

Genesis 27:14-24

Jacob wasn't just deceiving his father, Isaac; he was also using God's name for his own benefit.

When Isaac asked, "How did you find it so quickly, my son?" Jacob replied, "The Lord your God put it in my path."

That's serious. Jacob used God's name to make his lie sound believable.

Brothers and sisters, this is something very serious. We can't take this lightly.

Even today, many people do the same, using God's name for personal gain. They say, "God told me," "Or "This is what God wants," to make others believe them or to avoid being questioned. But just like Jacob, they use God's name to cover their own intentions.

This kind of behavior doesn't honor God; it causes harm. It misleads people and brings confusion.

Even though he couldn't see well, he listened to the voice of his son. He asked him to come closer so he could touch him, and he believed what he heard. When we trust our human senses more than what God has already said, we get into trouble. Without God's guidance, even what seems right can turn out wrong.

We might like what we hear, what we feel or hear, but we could still be wrong.

Do you remember the story in **1 Samuel 16**, when the Lord sent His prophet Samuel to Jesse's house to anoint the next king of Israel.

When Samuel arrived at Jesse's house and saw Eliab, he immediately assumed, "This must be the one the Lord has chosen!" But God corrected him, saying, "Don't base your judgment on looks or height—I've rejected him. You see people from the outside, but I look at the heart.

We know that Isaac couldn't see well, so he relied on his other senses, what he could touch, smell, and hear. He trusted his feelings instead of seeking God's direction.

It's very similar to what happened to Samuel. He saw Eliab and thought, "Surely this must be the Lord's anointed!"

But God corrected him, so both Isaac and Samuel remind us of this truth: our human senses can deceive us, but God's Word never fails.

When we depend on God's voice and His Word, we walk in truth even when things don't make sense.

So, Isaac was finally convinced and prepared to bless his son.

Genesis 27:25-29

When Isaac said, "May God give you abundance - May nations serve you," he wasn't just wishing for success or prosperity.

He was declaring God's covenant promises, the same ones God gave to Abraham, and now those promises were being passed to Jacob.

But look at the situation: Isaac was deceived, Jacob lied, and the family was broken. Even so, God's plan didn't stop. Even when people fail, God is still in control.

So, while Jacob was still leaving his father's tent, Esau was on his way back, completely unaware of what had just happened.

Genesis 27:30-38

This is the most emotional moment in the whole story.

Esau walks in full of excitement, ready to receive his father's blessing, but instead, he finds out that it's too late.

Isaac begins to tremble, realizing what has happened, and Esau cries out with deep pain and begs for another blessing, but there's nothing left to give.

At this point, it seems unfair to Esau. It looks like his brother stole what belonged to him.

But we need to remember Esau didn't really value the blessing.

He had already traded his birthright for a bowl of soup.

Genesis 25:32-34

We can see that Esau cared more about what could satisfy him in the moment than about what mattered to God.

You might be wondering: Why couldn't Isaac take back the blessing?

Isaac couldn't take back the blessing because it carried spiritual authority.

In those days, a father's blessing was final – once spoken, it couldn't be undone.

Some Bible commentaries suggest that when Isaac realized what had happened, he trembled violently – not just out of shock or anger, but because he understood that he had been resisting God's will.

In that moment, he saw that God's plan had moved forward, even without his intention.

That's why he said, as the **NKJV** puts it, (**Genesis 27:33**) "I have blessed him—and indeed he shall be blessed."

Isaac probably recognized that God's plan cannot be changed, even when people fail or act wrongly.

And that's true for us too, God can still work through imperfect situations to accomplish His perfect plan.

Meanwhile, Esau was hurt, and desperate. He cried out to his father, begging for a blessing of his own.

Genesis 27:39-40

Isaac's words to Esau sound more like a prophecy than a blessing.

Instead of abundance, Esau is told he will live away from the richness of the land. Instead of ruling, he will serve his brother.

But there's also a glimpse of hope Isaac says, "When you decide to break free, you will shake his yoke from your neck."

In other words, there would come a time when Esau's descendants would no longer live under Jacob's control.

This reminds us that even when consequences are painful, God still leaves room for hope and restoration. But the story doesn't end there.

Esau's pain quickly turned into anger and revenge.

Genesis 27:41-45

Now we see the consequences of deception: Jacob's lie broke his relationship with Esau. Esau was filled with hate and wanted to kill him.

Sin always brings pain. It hurts people and breaks trust.

When Esau realized what Jacob had done, he broke down – not just angry, but heartbroken. Yet instead of turning to God, his pain turned into poison.

Like Cain, he felt robbed and thought, "I deserve what my brother has." But when we hold on to pain instead of bringing it to God, it becomes bitterness.

I have found this definition: "Bitterness is pain that turns into the belief that your anger is right – but once you hold on to it, it starts to control you."

Listen, God calls us to bring our pain to Him. Forgiveness isn't saying what happened was right – it's choosing freedom over bondage. When we release the offense to God, He heals what bitterness was trying to destroy.

But, that wasn't the only consequence: Rebekah's plan also caused pain.

Because of it, Jacob had to run away, and Rebekah never saw him again. Sin might look like an easy way out, but in the end, it always brings regret.

And before the chapter ends, we see Rebekah speaking again. She uses another excuse to convince Isaac to send Jacob away.

Genesis 27:46

It seems that Rebekah remembered what Abraham had said in **Genesis 24:3** that Isaac should not marry a Canaanite woman.

She used this to convince Isaac to send Jacob away.

By mentioning the danger of Jacob marrying a Hittite. She said something true, but her real reason was to protect Jacob.

Applications:

You might wonder: Why is this story in the Bible? What's God's purpose in showing us all this deception and pain?

Yes, it warns us not to repeat the same mistakes – but it also reveals God's grace working through broken people.

Here are some key lessons for us:

1-DON'T ACT ON HUMAN PLANS WITHOUT SEEKING GOD.

Rebekah had a plan, but it came from impatience, not prayer. God's promises don't need our manipulation – they need our trust.

2-DON'T JUSTIFY SIN FOR A “GOOD” OUTCOME.

Jacob and Rebekah thought the blessing was worth the deception. But sin always complicates what God could have done simply through obedience.

3-SIN AND DECEPTION BRING PAINFUL CONSEQUENCES.

Lies break relationships and wound hearts. What seems like a shortcut often leads to years of regret.

4-HONOR GOD'S NAME.

Don't misuse God's name to defend your own desires. If it's truly God's will, you won't need to twist the truth to make it happen.

5-TRUST THAT GOD'S PLAN CANNOT BE STOPPED.

Isaac trembled when he realized he had tried to resist God's will – yet God still fulfilled His promise through Jacob. Our failures can't cancel God's faithfulness.

6-TURN TO GOD IN YOUR PAIN, AND CHOOSE FORGIVENESS.

Esau's story shows us how pain can become poison. When you're hurt, don't let bitterness take root – bring it to God. Forgiveness doesn't mean it was right; it means you choose freedom. When you let go, God begins to heal what bitterness tried to destroy.

But there's something more here: A picture of the gospel.

Jacob, the deceiver, longed for his father's blessing.

To receive it, he had to put on the clothes of the firstborn and present the meal that belonged to him.

When Isaac smelled the scent of his firstborn, the blessing fell on Jacob even though he didn't deserve it.

That sounds familiar, doesn't it?

Jesus is the true Firstborn of all creation. He covers us with His perfect righteousness as Scripture says: **Galatians 3:27**

And because of Him, the Father's blessing falls on us, not because of what we've done, but because of what Jesus has done.

Just like Jacob, we don't deserve it. Yet by grace, we receive what only belongs to the Son. Isaac was blind and could be deceived, but our Heavenly Father cannot be fooled; He sees us exactly as we are. And yet, in Christ, He chooses to bless us.

What do we need to do to receive this blessing?

We don't need to deceive; we simply need to: Come to God with honesty and humility.

Through Jesus, God offers us His righteousness, His Spirit, and His inheritance.

We've been clothed with salvation and now belong to the family of the Firstborn.

And here's the good news:

The Father's blessing is available for you today. God's heart is not to keep His blessings to Himself, but to share it with all who put their faith in Him.

So today, receive what God offers:

His forgiveness, His righteousness, and His eternal inheritance in Christ.