

Genesis 27 - Lesson 36

Jacob and Esau

1. 27:1-4 - Isaac's Secret Blessing

- a. Wiersbe on Isaac - a good beginning doesn't mean a good ending.
- b. This is one of the most pathetic chapters in the Bible: Psa 116:11 "all men are liars"
- c. Remember: God's election (Gen 25:23) made before their works - Rom 9:10-12
- d. Remember the dysfunction in Gen 25:28, Gen 25:34, and the grief in Gen 26:35
- e. Isaac's eyes were dim to the physical and spiritual: why is Isaac working in secret?
- f. "day of my death" - ends up being four decades later - Gen 35:29
- g. Esau sells his birthright for pottage; Isaac will give away his blessing for venison.

2. 27:5-29 - Rebekah and Jacob's Deception

- a. "Rebekah heard" - Isaac and Rebekah did not communicate.
- b. The parents had taught the children dishonesty before, and now she commands it.
- c. Rebekah does not trust God to do what he promised w/o her schemes
 - i. End does not justify means, a right thing gotten the wrong way is wrong
 - ii. God's prophecies/promises do not require our scheming to fulfill.
- d. 27:11-13 - Jacob is worried about getting caught, not lying. He lies and blasphemes.
- e. 27:20 - "the LORD thy God" - Isaac's God, not Jacob's whom he now lies about
- f. 27:23 - Isaac trusts his physical senses instead of what he heard from God in 25:23
- g. Isaac's blessing: prosperity, power, lordship over his brother, Abraham's blessing.

3. 27:30-41 - Esau's Rejection and Envy

- a. Ungodly Jacob was blessed without his works, Esau came offering his works.
- b. "Isaac trembled" - Gen 31:42, 31:53 - He trembled in fear at his failed intentions
- c. "yea, and he shall be blessed" - Isaac agrees God's purpose would be done - Rom 3:4
- d. 27:36 - Esau blamed Jacob when truly he despised the birthright
- e. Isaac had faith in blessing them both - Heb 11:20; the first willing blessing is Esau's
- f. Esau's blessing = cannot be the same, but dwells in prosperity, serve thy brother.
 - i. Isaac prophecies about the Edomites rebelling against Israel.
- g. Esau cries for repentance but does not get it - Heb 12:16-17
- h. 27:41 - Instead of responding favorably to his father's (and God's) choice he envies

4. 27:42-28:5 - Jacob Blessed and Sent Away

- a. Rebekah tells Jacob to flee (again an act of distrust) and lies to make it happen
- b. We never hear from her again, and she never sees her son again.
- c. Isaac agrees that Jacob should not marry Canaanite women, and sends him off.
- d. 28:3-4 - Isaac now willingly blesses Jacob with the land promise of his father.
- e. These sins of God's people are here by God's integrity not his desire: Jer 19:5, 32:25
- f. The sins of this chapter cause family discord, but also reverberate through history