

Sermon Notes 3/21/21

“Rebekah’s Plan”

How should we respond to Genesis chapter 27?

1. Trust in God’s _____.

Genesis 27:4

Psalms 31:14-15

Proverbs 3:5-6

2. Make honesty our _____.

Genesis 27:19

Ephesians 4:25

3. _____ sincere repentance.

Genesis 27:33

2 Corinthians 7:10-11

4. Let go of _____ problems.

Genesis 27:41

Philippians 3:13-14



Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat some of my game so that you may give me your blessing." Genesis 27:19 (NIV)

Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 27: March 21-28

Genesis 27

While the book of Genesis is a book of beginnings, it is also a book of dysfunctional families. Every family in Genesis demonstrates a lack of honesty and trust. The family of Isaac and Rebekah is no exception as we see in chapter 27. Isaac wants to give his blessing to his favorite son, even though God had said that “the older will serve the younger.” Rebekah believes the promise of God, but like Sarah, she thinks that God needs her help to make it happen. She devises a plan to pull the wool over her blind husband’s eyes. In this chapter we see important lessons about trusting God as well as building healthy family relationships.

Read Genesis 27:1-17

1. What was the condition of Isaac’s physical health? (27:1-2)
2. What did Isaac ask Esau to do? (27:3-4)
3. How did Rebekah find out that Isaac was planning to bless Esau? (27:5)
4. Who did Rebekah talk to about Isaac’s plan to bless Esau? (27:6-7)

We don’t know if Rebekah told Isaac about the prophecy the LORD gave her concerning the twins back in 25:23. There seems to be a lack of communication between Isaac and Rebekah. Instead of talking to each other and seeking the LORD’s will together, they are acting independently with their own personal agendas. Bruce Waltke notes,

The narrator highlights the family rivalry and parental favoritism by designating Esau as Isaac’s son and Jacob as Rebekah’s (27:6). In speaking to Jacob, Rebekah identifies Isaac as “your father” (not “my husband”), Esau as “your brother” (not “my son” 27:6; but cf. 27:15), and Jacob as “my son” (27:8).¹

¹ Bruce K. Waltke, *Genesis: A Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2001), 378.

5. What did Rebekah do after she heard Isaac talking to Esau? Why? (27:8-10)

Paul Kissling describes the significance of the phrase “before the LORD” in verse 7.

In Rebekah's version Isaac promises to bless Esau "before the Lord." With this addition Rebekah draws attention to the solemn nature of what Isaac is about to do. It is not just his blessing—a wish from someone who will die and thereby lose any ability to see that the blessing comes to fruition—but a blessing "before the Lord." This is tantamount to a divine promise. To make such a promise and it have divine power behind it is a very different thing.²

6. What was Jacob's initial concern with Rebekah's plan? (27:11-12)

7. How did Rebekah respond to Jacob's concern in verse 13?

Rebekah was not doing this just because Jacob was her favorite son. She really believed that the blessing was supposed to go to Jacob and she needed to do something to prevent Isaac from blessing the wrong son. However, she should have talked to her husband about it and prayed about it. Tremper Longman observes,

On the other hand, it might have been better had she let God work the matter out in his mysterious way rather than taking matters in her hands. In the Abraham narrative, we frequently observed the troubles that arise when the patriarch (and matriarch in the case of Sarah) tried to fulfill the promise in his wisdom and power rather than waiting for God. In Genesis, and indeed throughout Scripture, waiting on God to fulfill his promise is a virtue and grasping and manipulating is a vice that often leads to trouble.³

8. What did Rebekah do to make Isaac think Jacob was Esau? (27:15-17)

² Paul Kissling, *The College Press NIV Commentary: Genesis Volume 2* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 2009), 273.

³ Tremper Longman, *The Story of God Bible Commentary: Genesis* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2016), 352-353.

Read Genesis 27:18-29

9. What did Jacob say when Isaac asked him who he was? (27:18-19)
10. What did Jacob say when Isaac asked him how his hunting trip was over so quickly? (27:20)
11. What did Isaac say when he touched the hands of Jacob? (27:21-23)
12. What did Jacob say when Isaac asked, “Are you really my son Esau?” (27:24)
13. What did Isaac say when he kissed Jacob and smelled his clothes? (27:27)
14. What blessing did Isaac give Jacob? (27:28-29)

Read Genesis 27:30-46

15. When did Esau come back from hunting? (27:30)
16. What did Isaac say in verse 32 when Esau came back with the food he had prepared for father?
17. What did Isaac say about the blessing he gave Jacob in verse 33?

Isaac was trembling not just because he was tricked but also because he realized that blessing Jacob was God’s plan. Hebrews 11:20 and Genesis 28:1-4 indicate that he sincerely accepted this as God’s will.

18. How did Esau respond when he realized that Jacob received his blessing? (27:34-38)
19. How did Isaac answer Esau’s request for a blessing? (27:39-40)
20. What did Esau plan to do? (27:41)
21. What did Rebekah tell Jacob to do? (27:42-45)
22. What did Rebekah say to Isaac? (27:46)
23. What can we do to ease the friction between family members?
24. In what areas will you ask God to help you trust His plan?