

Genesis 27-28

Worldview: The Consequences of the Wrong Worldview

See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears. (Heb 12:15-17)

Part 1: Isaac's Intent (27:1-4)

1. Isaac calls Esau to him and asks him to hunt and prepare a meal for him.
2. After he eats, he will bless Esau.

Questions:

1. **Why was Isaac blind?**
2. **Why did he not bless Esau immediately?**
3. **What does Isaac's focus on a tasty meal and Esau's selling of his birthright have in common? What does it tell us about Isaac's relationship with Esau?**

Part 2: Rebekah's Plot (27:5-17)

1. Rebekah overhears the conversation and plans a deception.
2. Jacob is at first hesitant. **Why?**

Questions:

1. **What are some possible motivations that Rebekah would have had to do what she did?**
2. **Why did Jacob go along with it?**

Part 3: Jacob's Deception (27:18-29)

1. Consider the number of lies from Jacob:
 - a. I am Esau your firstborn v19
 - b. I have done as you told me v19
 - c. The Lord **your** God granted me success v20
 - d. I am v24
2. Isaac's blessing to Jacob includes:
 - a. Dew of heaven and fatness of the earth
 - b. Nations will bow down to him
 - c. His family will bow down to him
 - d. Blessing for those who bless; cursing for those who curse

Questions: The fulfillment of God's decree that the older will serve the younger comes about through deception and lies. Does this make God the author of sin? Why or why not? How does Hebrews 12:15-17 help to answer that question?

Part 4: No Chance to Repent (27:30-40)

1. Jacob “scarcely” has time to leave before Esau arrives with fresh food for his father.

Question: is this coincidence? What if Esau had shown up just a few minutes prior?

2. Esau begs for his blessing, but Isaac explains that Jacob has taken it away.

Question: Given that it came about by deception, why didn’t Isaac retract the blessing and give it to Esau?

Question: Hebrews 12:15-17 implies that Esau’s lack of opportunity to repent was judgment from God. What brought about that judgment?

3. Jacob is rightly named Jacob – the cheater. Esau claims that Jacob has cheated him twice.

Question: How many times was Esau actually cheated?

To show partiality is not good, but for a piece of bread a man will do wrong. (Pro 28:21)

4. Esau’s “blessing”
 - a. Away from the fatness of the earth and dew of heaven
 - b. By your sword you shall live
 - c. You shall serve your brother
 - d. Eventually, you will break his yoke from your neck

Part 5: Vengeance, Flight, and Ignorance of the Promise (27:41-28:9)

1. Esau plots to kill Jacob
2. Rebekah hears word of the plot and sends Jacob to Haran

Question: What are the two motivations Rebekah has for sending Jacob away? What is the ultimate reason given for Jacob going?

3. Esau sees that Canaanite women do not please his father?

Question: in response to that, what does Esau do? What does that say about Esau?

Part 6: Steadfast Love vs Conditional Commitment (28:10-22)

1. Jacob’s ladder – God appears to Jacob in a dream.
2. God makes the same promises to Jacob as he did to Abraham and Isaac.
3. Jacob makes a vow.

Questions:

1. **Consider John 1:47-51 in light of Jacob’s dream.**
2. **Is Jacob’s vow conditional or unconditional?**
3. **What are your thoughts about both this conditional commitment and Jacob’s comment regarding “your” God?**

Next Week: Genesis 29-30