

Genesis - Lesson 27

Genesis Chapter 27

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Memory verses for this week: *Psa 92:15 To shew that the LORD is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.*

Introduction: We continue our study on the book of Genesis this week as we find a divided house in Isaac's life. After Esau bought the birthright from Jacob, problems ensued.

I. A Divided House and the Blessing

Gen 27:1 And it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his eldest son, and said unto him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, here am I.

Gen 27:2 And he said, Behold now, I am old, I know not the day of my death:

Gen 27:3 Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me some venison;

Gen 27:4 And make me savoury meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee before I die.

Isaac showed a father's unscriptural desire. He knew that the blessing did not belong to Esau as we read about in chapter 25.

Gen 25:21 And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

Gen 25:22 And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD.

Gen 25:23 And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

Even though Isaac seemed to believe that he would soon die, we know he lived many more years.

Gen 35:28 And the days of Isaac were an hundred and fourscore years.

Gen 35:29 And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

Esau was known as a great hunter, and his dad enjoyed his abilities. Isaac had a desire for savory meat which he loved it says in verse 3. The mixing of the spiritual with the fleshly is a dangerous method. You really can't serve two masters because we will love the one and hate the other.

Gen 27:5 And Rebekah heard when Isaac spake to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt for venison, and to bring it.

Gen 27:6 And Rebekah spake unto Jacob her son, saying, Behold, I heard thy father speak unto Esau thy brother, saying,

Gen 27:7 Bring me venison, and make me savoury meat, that I may eat, and bless thee before the LORD before my death.

Rebekah overheard Isaac and came up with an unethical deception. Rebekah may have wanted to comply with God's Word, but she uses unholy means trying to aid God. This is never right, for God is able to do His will without calling on us to lie or cheat to bring it to pass. She reveals Isaac's plan to Jacob, about him desiring the savoury meat of venison.

Adam Clarke in his commentary said that some believe Rebekah received divine help in making her plan to deceive Isaac. He quickly proves this to not be the case. God is not the author of confusion or sin.

And Rebekah heard - And was determined, if possible, to frustrate the design of Isaac, and procure the blessing for her favorite son. Some pretend that she received a Divine inspiration to the purpose; but if she had she needed not to have recourse to deceit, to help forward the accomplishment. Isaac, on being informed, would have had too much piety not to prefer the will of his Maker to his own partiality for his eldest son; but Rebekah had nothing of the kind to plead, and therefore had recourse to the most exceptionable means to accomplish her ends.

Gen 27:8 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command thee.

Gen 27:9 Go now to the flock, and fetch me from thence two good kids of the goats; and I will make them savoury meat for thy father, such as he loveth:

Gen 27:10 And thou shalt bring it to thy father, that he may eat, and that he may bless thee before his death.

Gen 27:11 And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man:

Gen 27:12 My father peradventure will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a deceiver; and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing.

Rebekah reveals her own deceptive plan with Jacob. She suggests that they cook two kids of the goats and she will prepare the meat for Isaac. Jacob was fully aware that he was a smooth man and Esau was hairy. His father would possibly feel of him and know he was not Esau. Jacob was afraid of being found out.

Gen 27:13 And his mother said unto him, Upon me be thy curse, my son: only obey my voice, and go fetch me them.

Gen 27:14 And he went, and fetched, and brought them to his mother: and his mother made savoury meat, such as his father loved.

Gen 27:15 And Rebekah took goodly raiment of her eldest son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them upon Jacob her younger son:

Gen 27:16 And she put the skins of the kids of the goats upon his hands, and upon the smooth of his neck:

Gen 27:17 And she gave the savoury meat and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.

Rebekah tells Jacob to not be concerned. She was willing to bear the curse if they were found out. The result of her scheming was that she was separated from her son, and spent the rest of her days with an old and blinded Isaac. In verse 14, we find that Jacob was obedient to their devious plan. Rebekah come up with another plan to deceive Isaac with a clever disguise.

II. The Deception and the Result

Gen 27:18 And he came unto his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I; who art thou, my son?

Gen 27:19 And Jacob said unto his father, I am Esau thy firstborn; I have done according as thou badest me: arise, I pray thee, sit and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me.

Gen 27:20 And Isaac said unto his son, How is it that thou hast found it so quickly, my son? And he said, Because the LORD thy God brought it to me.

Isaac calls Jacob to come to him thinking it was Esau. He lies and tells him he is Esau and has brought him the venison that he loves. Isaac questions how he so quickly was able to find the deer and bring it back. Jacob now involves God in his lie and says the Lord thy God brought it to me. Jacob both lies about his identity and uses God's name in the deception.

Gen 27:21 And Isaac said unto Jacob, Come near, I pray thee, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou be my very son Esau or not.

Gen 27:22 And Jacob went near unto Isaac his father; and he felt him, and said, The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.

Gen 27:23 And he discerned him not, because his hands were hairy, as his brother Esau's hands: so he blessed him.

Gen 27:24 And he said, Art thou my very son Esau? And he said, I am.

Gen 27:25 And he said, Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son's venison, that my soul may bless thee. And he brought it near to him, and he did eat: and he brought him wine, and he drank.

Isaac depends on feeling of Jacob and is deceived. He then brings the lamb meat his mother had prepared and Jacob eats and is deceived by the taste.

Albert Barnes made these comments about Jacob and Isaac in his commentary.

The plan is successful. Jacob now, without further objection, obeys his mother. She clothes him in Esau's raiment, and puts the skins of the kids on his hands and his neck. The camel-goat affords a hair which bears a great resemblance to that of natural growth, and is used as a substitute for it. Now begins the strange interview between the father and the son. "Who art thou, my son?" The voice of Jacob was somewhat constrained. He goes, however, deliberately through the process of deceiving his father. "Arise, now, sit

and eat.” Isaac was reclining on his couch, in the feebleness of advancing years. Sitting was the posture convenient for eating. “The Lord thy God prospered me.” This is the bold reply to Isaac’s expression of surprise at the haste with which the dainty fare had been prepared. The bewildered father now puts Jacob to a severer test. He feels him, but discerns him not. The ear notes a difference, but the hand feels the hairy skin resembling Esau’s; the eyes give no testimony. After this the result is summarily stated in a single sentence, though the particulars are yet to be given. “Art thou my very son Esau?” A lurking doubt puts the definite question, and receives a decisive answer.

Gen 27:26 *And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near now, and kiss me, my son.*

Gen 27:27 And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the LORD hath blessed:

Gen 27:28 Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine:

Gen 27:29 Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee.

Jacob is also deceived by smell. We have to be careful when we go by our senses. How we feel is never a good way to decide important decisions. Many people in the religious world today are depending on feeling, rather than facts of Scripture, and thus are being deceived. In verse 28 and 29, the blessing is bestowed. The blessings he received contained material blessings. It also contained governmental and family authority, and it contained divine protection.

III. Esau Receives A Blessing

Gen 27:30 And it came to pass, as soon as Isaac had made an end of blessing Jacob, and Jacob was yet scarce gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting.

Gen 27:31 And he also had made savoury meat, and brought it unto his father, and said unto his father, Let my father arise, and eat of his son's venison, that thy soul may bless me.

Gen 27:32 And Isaac his father said unto him, Who art thou? And he said, I am thy son, thy firstborn Esau.

Gen 27:33 And Isaac trembled very exceedingly, and said, Who? where is he that hath taken venison, and brought it me, and I have eaten of all before thou camest, and have blessed him? yea, and he shall be blessed.

Soon after Isaac gave the blessing to Jacob, Esau returns from his hunt. But unfortunately for him, Esau arrived too late. He asks his father to come and eat the venison so that he might be blessed. Isaac trembled when he hears Esau's voice, and he says I have eaten all before you came and blessed someone else. There was total helplessness in his voice.

Gen 27:34 And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said unto his father, Bless me, even me also, O my father.

Gen 27:35 And he said, Thy brother came with subtilty, and hath taken away thy blessing.

Gen 27:36 And he said, Is not he rightly named Jacob? for he hath supplanted me these two times: he took away my birthright; and, behold, now he hath taken away my blessing. And he said, Hast thou not reserved a blessing for me?

Gen 27:37 And Isaac answered and said unto Esau, Behold, I have made him thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and with corn and wine have I sustained him: and what shall I do now unto thee, my son?

This was very distressing news, and Esau cries out with a bitter cry. Like his brother Jacob, Esau is also a deceiver, for he claimed a blessing that before God he had no right to claim. Jacob had already received the blessing. He asks if there is not some blessing remaining that he could have, but Isaac tells him that Jacob has taken all the blessings.

Gen 27:38 And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? bless me, even me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept.

Gen 27:39 And Isaac his father answered and said unto him, Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above;

Gen 27:40 And by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck.

Esau wept, but did not repent. Being sad and changing your evil ways is not the same thing.

Heb 12:16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

Heb 12:17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

What he felt may have been regret or remorse, but not true repentance. After all he had sold the birthright, and thus revealed his lack of appreciation for spiritual things. Finally Jacob does speak that Esau's dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth and of the dew of heaven from above.

This was the blessing Esau did receive. Isaac and Esau were far from innocent in all of this. They were actually conspiring to deflect to Esau a blessing they both knew that he had forfeited (by selling his birthright), and in fact was never destined to have (Gen. 25:23). Of course this does not clear Rebekah and Jacob. It is remarkable that in the midst of such unworthy human conduct that the will of God was accomplished. Man will not stay God's plans in anyway.

IV. The Result Of Deception.

Gen 27:41 And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed

him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.

Gen 27:42 And these words of Esau her elder son were told to Rebekah: and she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said unto him, Behold, thy brother Esau, as touching thee, doth comfort himself, purposing to kill thee.

Gen 27:43 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; and arise, flee thou to Laban my brother to Haran;

Gen 27:44 And tarry with him a few days, until thy brother's fury turn away;

Gen 27:45 Until thy brother's anger turn away from thee, and he forget that which thou hast done to him: then I will send, and fetch thee from thence: why should I be deprived also of you both in one day?

Gen 27:46 And Rebekah said to Isaac, I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth: if Jacob take a wife of the daughters of Heth, such as these which are of the daughters of the land, what good shall my life do me?

The loss of the birthright and the blessing causes Esau to hate Jacob. He now desires to murder him. In verse 42, Rebekah comes to Jacob and tells him what Esau had planned. She expresses her desire for Jacob. She wanted him to arise and flee from Esau to her brother Laban who lived in Haran. She tells him to go there and leave until Esau's fury calms down. She also desired him to take a proper wife.

Important Lessons And Applications

1. The religious world abounds with deceivers, who speak with the voice of Jacob, but whose hands are the hands of Esau. These false leaders and movements are deceiving many to believe that which is not true according to the Bible.
2. Unfortunately there are many like Isaac, whose spiritual vision and discernment is weak. While depending upon feeling and human reasoning they are lending their influence, money and blessing to those who are the enemies of Christ and His Church. In this manner, cults, charismatics and the social gospel is being promoted.
3. Finally, Jacob found acceptance with his father and received his blessing because he sheltered behind the name of the father's first-born, and was clothed with his garments. Likewise, we as sinners find acceptance because we are sheltered behind the name of God's first-born Son, and are clothed in His robe of righteousness.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What did Isaac desire Esau to do for him?

To hunt and bring him some savoury venison that he loved.

2. What would be the result of Esau carrying this out?

Rebekah and Jacob come up with a plan to take the blessing.

3. What deception was carried out by Rebekah and Jacob?

They lie to Isaac by dressing Jacob in lamb skins and preparing the meat of the kids of goats and pretend it is venison from Esau.

4. What three things did the blessing upon Jacob contain?

The blessings he received contained material blessings, governmental and family authority, and it contained divine protection.

5. What was Esau's response when he found out the blessing had already been given to Jacob?

He is angry and asks for another blessing. He then decides he will murder Jacob.

6. What was the result of the deception?

Rebekah sends Jacob to her brother Laban in Haran to let Esau cool off.

7. What did Rebekah advise Jacob to do?

Stay away for a time and try to find a wife from their family there in Haran.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.