



MESSAGE/SERIES:

Series: Biblical Beginnings

Message: “Stolen Blessings”

Text: Genesis 27:1-46

DATE: March 14, 2021

SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK:

(These verses will help you understand themes within as you read our core text as scripture proves scripture)

Genesis 27-28:9, Hebrews 11:20, 12:17, Genesis 25:23, 25:28 (Edomites would break yoke with Israel) **2 Kings 8:20, 2 Chronicles 21:8-10** (Edomites revolt against Judah), **28:16-17, Isaiah 28:16-17, Deuteronomy 33:28, 1 John 3:12, Genesis 37:4, Proverbs 12:19** (Truth & Lies), **Genesis 25:27-34** (Esau sold birthright), **Psalm 1:1, Ephesians 5:2**

OPENING SCRIPTURE:

[Genesis 27:1-46]

“When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called Esau his older son and said to him, “My son”; and he answered, “Here I am.” 2 He said, “Behold, I am old; I do not know the day of my death. 3 Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me, 4 and prepare for me delicious food, such as I love, and bring it to me so that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die.”

5 Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to his son Esau. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for game and bring it, 6 Rebekah said to her son Jacob, “I heard your father speak to your brother Esau, 7 ‘Bring me game and prepare for me delicious food, that I may eat it and bless you before the Lord before I die.’ 8 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice as I command you. 9 Go to the flock and bring me two good young goats, so that I may prepare from them delicious food for your father, such as he loves. 10 And you shall bring it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he dies.” 11 But Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, “Behold, my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man. 12 Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be mocking him and bring a curse upon myself and not a blessing.” 13 His mother said to him, “Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, bring them to me.”

14 So he went and took them and brought them to his mother, and his mother prepared delicious food, such as his father loved. 15 Then Rebekah took the best garments of Esau, her older son, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. 16 And the

skins of the young goats she put on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. 17 And she put the delicious food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.

18 So he went in to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?" 19 Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me." 20 But Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?" He answered, "Because the Lord your God granted me success." 21 Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not." 22 So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, who felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." 23 And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands. So he blessed him. 24 He said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He answered, "I am." 25 Then he said, "Bring it near to me, that I may eat of my son's game and bless you." So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank. 26 Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near and kiss me, my son." 27 So he came near and kissed him. And Isaac smelled the smell of his garments and blessed him and said,

"See, the smell of my son
is as the smell of a field that the Lord has blessed!
28 May God give you of the dew of heaven
and of the fatness of the earth
and plenty of grain and wine.
29 Let peoples serve you,
and nations bow down to you.
Be lord over your brothers,
and may your mother's sons bow down to you.
Cursed be everyone who curses you,
and blessed be everyone who blesses you!"

30 As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, when Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, Esau his brother came in from his hunting. 31 He also prepared delicious food and brought it to his father. And he said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that you may bless me." 32 His father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?" He answered, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau." 33 Then Isaac trembled very violently and said, "Who was it then that hunted game and brought it to me, and I ate it all before you came, and I have blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed." 34 As soon as Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry and said to his father, "Bless me, even me also, O my father!" 35 But he said, "Your brother came deceitfully, and he has taken away your blessing." 36 Esau said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has cheated me these two times. He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing." Then he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?" 37 Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Behold, I have made him lord over you, and all his brothers I have given to him for servants, and with grain and wine I have sustained him. What then can I do for you, my son?" 38 Esau said to his father, "Have you but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father." And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

39 Then Isaac his father answered and said to him:

"Behold, away from the fatness of the earth shall your dwelling be,
and away from the dew of heaven on high.
40 By your sword you shall live,
and you shall serve your brother;
but when you grow restless
you shall break his yoke from your neck."

41 Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob.” 42 But the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son and said to him, “Behold, your brother Esau comforts himself about you by planning to kill you. 43 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice. Arise, flee to Laban my brother in Haran 44 and stay with him a while, until your brother’s fury turns away— 45 until your brother’s anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him. Then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereft of you both in one day?”

46 Then Rebekah said to Isaac, “I loathe my life because of the Hittite women. If Jacob marries one of the Hittite women like these, one of the women of the land, what good will my life be to me?”

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ge 27:1–46.

BACKGROUND & OTHER STUDY HELPS:



[Isaac Tricked into Blessing Jacob]

[BIRTHRIGHT] “The right of a firstborn to a special (often double) inheritance among other siblings. This concept also includes the general right of all children to an inheritance of their household.”

David Witthoff, ed., *The Lexham Cultural Ontology Glossary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

[BLESSING] “A wish, expression, or gift for the wellbeing of another. In cases of divine blessing, it becomes an act in favor of the one being blessed.”

David Witthoff, ed., *The Lexham Cultural Ontology Glossary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

“The practice of a patriarch in verbally blessing his offspring. This may include the *promise of specific aspects of inheritance upon the death of the patriarch.*”

David Witthoff, ed., *The Lexham Cultural Ontology Glossary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

“Sticks and stones can only break my bones, but words can make or break my very soul.” Don’t you know even offhanded comments that have been made to you over the years, words of affirmation and blessing or words of condemnation and criticism and

cursing, have moved into your life and are still there? They're still operating as a power. You know that. They're still in there programming your self-appreciation or your lack thereof. You know that.

Words have a power to them, especially words of affirmation and valuing or condemnation and cursing. They pass into you. They become part of you. They shape who you are. The ancients knew this. If even offhanded, almost casual comments can pass into you and just hurt you and ruin you or lift you up and comfort you and sweeten your life for years and years and years, how much more words that are put forth in an authoritative, climactic setting like a deathbed blessing?"

Timothy J. Keller, *The Timothy Keller Sermon Archive* (New York City: Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 2013).

"Even though Esau had bartered away his birthright and married heathen women, Isaac still favored him over Jacob: "Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob" (Genesis 25:28). Isaac must also have known God's Word to Rebekah: **"Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger"** (Genesis 25:23). God had declared that it was His will that the second-born son take the inheritance position of the first son, yet Jacob went against all of this because he favored Esau who brought him fresh meat to eat. **Deathbed bequests were legally binding, and if Isaac had blessed Esau instead of Jacob, then God's will would have been overthrown and the Messianic line would have been cut."**

James M. Freeman and Harold J. Chadwick, *Manners & Customs of the Bible* (North Brunswick, NJ: Bridge-Logos Publishers, 1998), 48.

"The Lord helps those who have come to the end of themselves..."

-ARTHUR PINK

OUTLINE:

I. (v1-27a) A BLESSING TOSSED

Isaac wanted to satisfy his belly. Rebekah wanted her favorite son to receive his promised blessing right away. Jacob wanted to please his mother. Esau wanted to please his father and right his haphazard gamble with his birthright. The Spiritual blessing and will of God were tossed around as if the divine right was their own to do with what we will.

A. (v1) Isaac was a man of Old Age

1. *“Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see...”*
 - a) Isaac could not see physically very well at all (Physical)
 - b) Isaac could not Spiritually see/discern as we will see in this text (Spiritual lack of Control)

B. (v2-4) Isaac took advantage of the moment

1. *“Behold, I am old; I do not know the day of my death.”*
 - a) Isaac uses his physical situation/circumstance to persuade Esau
 - b) Isaac had gotten comfortable in a place to be served
2. *“...prepare for me delicious food, such as I love, and bring it to me so that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die.”*
 - a) Isaac was lead by his belly and not God’s desires
 - b) Isaac promises Esau a blessing if he will hunt for him and fix his favorite meal (manipulation)

C. (v5-7) Rebekah took advantage of Isaac

1. *Rebekah was eavesdropping on and was waiting for a moment to act*
 - a) She listens for detail as Isaac speaks to Esau revealing a malicious intent

D. (v8) Rebekah uses her role to her advantage

1. *Rebekah commands Jacob’s obedience*
2. *Rebekah knows Jacob is a mama’s boy and desires to please her*
 - a) =What punishment will be applied to mothers who direct their children to deceive?

E. (v9-17) Rebekah had thought out every detail to deceive (5 senses)

1. *(v9) Rebekah would cook the meal to deceive Isaacs (Taste)*
2. *(v15, 27) Rebekah dressed Jacob in Esau’s best clothes so that the image Isaac had resembled Esau (v15)Sight/(v27) Smell)*
3. *(v18-19) Rebekah had Jacob say he was Esau (Hearing)*
4. *(v16) Rebekah put skins of young goats on Jacob’s hands and neck to make him seem hairy (touch)*
5. *(v17) Rebekah put sweet-smelling food into the hands of Jacob to throw Isaac off of Jacob’s scent (Smell)*

F. (v11-12) Jacob understood the deception’s risk

1. *He was not a hairy man as his brother Esau/ he was smooth-skinned- (Isaac would feel his arm and know)*

2. *Jacob knew if his father figured the scheme out before he blessed him he would be cursed and not blessed for mocking his father in his old age (respect of parents was premium)*

G. (v13) Rebekah was willing to be Cursed if caught

1. *“Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, bring them to me.”*
 - a) Rebekah’s desire to get the blessing God had promised faster was greater than pleasing God in the present

H. (v18-27) Jacob followed the plan of His mother and making it his sin (Ezekiel 18:20)

1. (v18-19) **Opportunity #1 to be truthful and trust God-**
 - a) Jacob is immediately questioned as to his identity and he lies
 2. (v20) **Opportunity #2 to be truthful and trust God-**
 - a) Jacob is quickly questioned as to his actions and speed in hunting/cooking and Jacob implicates God
 3. (v21-23) **Opportunity #3 to be truthful and trust God-**
 - a) Jacob is drawn nearby a suspicious father to feel his arms as his voice was not Esau and Jacob allowed his father to believe the lie
 4. (v24) **Opportunity #4 to be truthful and trust God-**
 - a) Jacob is asked again to verify that he was Esau and Jacob continued to lie verbally
 5. (v25) **Opportunity #5 to be truthful and trust God-**
 - a) Jacob is asked to give Isaac the food to taste test his cooking to see if it was Esau and Jacob took what his mother prepared claiming it as his own
 6. (v26-27) **Opportunity #6 to be truthful and trust God-**
 - a) Jacob is asked to draw near to kiss his father so he could smell him/clothes and Jacob like Judas later betrays Isaac with a kiss
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Meditation Moment:

- Isaac tossed the blessing as something meaningless by playing favorites even though he knew God's desire for Jacob to receive the blessing
- Isaac put his stomach before God's desires (much like Esau with his birthright Genesis 25)
- Isaac allowed himself to get sloppy in his spiritual walk and used his age as an excuse for making poor decisions
- Rebekah abused her position as a wife and planned to deceive her husband to please her on desires
- Rebekah abused her position as a mother and sinned against her son
- Rebekah sinned against her God in all elements as she tried to speed up God's promises
- Jacob knew the risks and chose his mother over his God
- Jacob became a very dishonest and crafty liar as he practiced and grew in his trade
- Jacob displayed no reverence for God in his actions (the God who would ultimately deal the blessing out)

II. (v27b-38) A BLESSING LOST

Esau had already shown how he felt about the things of God when he gave Jacob His birthright for a bowl of stew in Genesis 25 and yet now he realizes that he has lost something great in the earthly realm as well but the blessing is now lost.

A. (v27b) Isaac based his blessing on the smell of the flesh and not on spiritual discernment and prayer (far from God)

1. *The blessing had lost its reward for Isaac as the giver (blessed is a cheerful giver- from good motive)*

B. (v28-29) The blessing was very symbolic

1. *"The dew of heaven"= rain was scarce and dew was the life's blood to the growth*
2. *"The Fatness of the earth"= Exceptional quality be granted to you*
3. *"Plenty of grain and wine"= Overflowing quantity*
4. *"Let people serve you"- Dominion over others*
5. *"Let nations bow down to you"-*
6. *"Be Lord over your brothers"-*
7. *"Cursed be everyone who curses you"- (Divine Protection) God will judge those who come against Jacob seed (the true Israel/the church)*

8. *“Blessed be everyone who blesses you”- (Divine Overflow) God would bless those who bless Jacob’s seed (the true Israel/the church)*

C. (v30-31) Esau comes in to receive what Isaac had promised

1. The opportunity to receive the blessing has passed as it has already been given and cannot be taken back

D. (v32) Isaac was shocked

1. Isaac had lost the blessing of giving as he had tried to give away God’s blessing to his pick and not Gods

E. (v33) Isaac sees His Sin

1. *“³³ Then Isaac trembled very violently and said, “Who was it then that hunted game and brought it to me, and I ate it all before you came, and I have blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed.””*
 - a) Trembling indicates a godly fear and understanding of what he had done
 - (1) *Isaac has been fighting against God*
 - (2) *Isaac had to have known what God said to Rebekah about the older serving the younger (Genesis 25:23- God’s desire for Jacob to receive the blessing)*
 - (3) *Isaac may have realized that he had drug Esau into his battle with God*
 - (4) *Isaac’s desires were shattered*
 - (a) =There is always a reckoning moment for Christian parents when we have lead our children astray

F. (v34-36) Esau sees the moment

1. *This moment brought weight as Esau knew his decisions with his birthright had paved the way for that moment*
2. *(Dominio-effects) There are moments and choices that can never be changed once they are made (broken heart to the facts)*
3. *Esau tries to grab at what he can but there is not much left at this point... (v34)“Bless me, even me also, O my father!”... (v36) “Have you not reserved a blessing for me?”*
 - a) When we pass on moments (birthright) then God will raise up another
 - b) When God has a plan it will come to pass (eternal/unchangeable)
 - c) Esau was asking if there was anything left, held back for him

(1) The fact that Isaac had intended to not hold anything back for Jacob reveals his heart as well

G. (v36-37) Isaac realizes and gives in reality that there is nothing left

H. (v38) “Have you but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father.” And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

- 1. (Hebrews 12:17) Reveals that Esau was not repentant as he wept, but rather just sorry for himself (self-pity)*
 - 2. Esau would take whatever he could get as it was about getting not giving (Flesh response versus Spirit response)*
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Meditation Moment:

- God had chosen the line for Christ to come through and Isaac lost out as God will always have His way (Romans 8:28)
 - God has and will bless those who stand with Christ as Lord and curse those who are His enemies as Christ is the true Israel and the reason for all blessings
 - Esau lost the blessing when he treated his birthright with contempt and auctioned it off for a bowl of food
 - What Esau took lightly God took very seriously and gave his blessing away to His chosen vessel
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III. (v39-46) A BLESSING’S COST

A. (v39-40a) Isaac restates the blessing of Jacob but gives Esau’s end/cost of losing the blessing

- 1. Esau would live in the desert away from the dew of the earth*
- 2. Esau would live far from the fatness of the earth*
- 3. Esau would indeed serve his brother Jacob*
- 4. Esau would toil and fight for everything he would get (Sword)*
 - a) Proven historically*

B. (v40b) “...but when you grow restless you shall break his yoke from your neck.”

- 1. Esau’s people would spend a great deal of history servants to Israel (Cost of lost blessing)*
- 2. Eventually, Edom/ Esau’s descendants would finally break free from Israel and no longer be their slaves but it would take time. (2 Kings 8:20)*

C. (v41-44) The Stolen Blessing had a cost for Jacob

1. (Hate) Esau wanted to kill Jacob and would only wait until after his father's death
2. Jacob had to leave town (was on the run from his brother Esau's wrath)

D. (v45-46) The Stolen Blessing had a cost for Rebekah

1. Rebekah lost her favorite son as she would not see Jacob again on earth (sent him away to spare his life)
2. Rebekah had to lie to Isaac as well to cover up the need for Jacob to leave as he needs to find a godly wife and not a Hittite woman

Meditation Moment:

- Isaac experienced great cost for his trying to cheat God (great guilt/Esau punished)
- Rebekah experienced great loss for her deception of Isaac and her trying to rush God as she loses Jacob (has to leave)
- Jacob experiences great loss for his ownership of the deception as he would live in fear of his brother for a period and be on the run
- Esau would be subject to no real blessing and servanthood for his descendants
- We must watch our steps and not try and fool God into doing and permitting what we want
- We must not take for granted the Spiritual things, neglecting them for our earthly desires
- We must watch our steps and not get in front of God as Rebekah did

“Sticks and stones can only break my bones, *but words can make or break my very soul.*”

—TIMOTHY KELLER
