

GOING AGAINST GOD'S PROMISE **GENESIS CH27:1-29**

ILLUSTRATION

What happens to relationships when the rules for some is to lie, deceive and scheme but to others in the same group, the rules are to be faithful, truthful and open? You have the series "Traitors!"

There are five characters mentioned in verses 1-29, four of the five choose to act, and it is a choice, in a sinful way, by ignoring God's promise and by not relying on God to fulfil His promise through taking matters into their own hands, characterised by selfish motives! ***And only God remains faithful to his promise!***

Remember what Ian said a few weeks back about the word "Blessing" (barak)? Explain "Blessing" - Blessing is an "action" verb, meaning, the Lord actively bestowing upon us, His favour! That is, God's goodness to us! God blesses Abraham Gen Ch12:1-3 with His favour, God blesses Isaac Ch25:11 with His favour, who will God bless now, Esau or Jacob?

DEATH BED REQUEST! V1-4

Isaac is around 137 years old at this time, we are told (**v1**) that he is old and that his eyes were dim, so he can't see, furthermore (although we are not told this) his older half brother Ishmael died when he reached the age of 137 (**Ch25:17**)! Is this why Isaac is thinking that his death is imminent? He actually goes on to live for another 43 years (**Ch35:28-29**)! However, his mindset is that death is imminent and so he has a request before he blesses! What is the request? **V3+4**, he wants his eldest son Esau to hunt for game and to then cook a delicious meal for him, "such as I love!" (**Ch25:29**)

What did Isaac know?

- 1. Isaac knew that God blesses! Abraham Gen Ch12:1-3 with His favour, God blesses Isaac Ch25:11 with His favour***
- 2. Ch17:21 – Isaac knew that the covenant was going to continue through him and his offspring and the covenant would involve a land, a nation and a blessing to the***

nations (Ch12:1-3)!

3. **Ch25:21** – That Rebekah was pregnant and the Lord allowed her to conceive after Isaac's prayer!
4. **Ch25:26** – Isaac was 60 years old when his twin sons were born.
5. **Ch25:28** – Isaac had a favourite son, Esau his eldest, because (**v27**) Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field, and (**v28**) Isaac loved to eat “the game” that Esau caught!
6. **Ch26:3, 24, 28** – Isaac knew of the covenant that God had established with Abraham, and now with himself and his offspring!
7. **Ch25:9** – Isaac knew he had an older half brother Ishmael, and 6 younger half brothers (**Ch25:2**), Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak and Shuah! ***And yet despite these siblings, yet he was the son of the promise of the covenant!***
8. **Ch25:11, Ch26:24+25 + Ch26:28** – Isaac knew God's blessing!
9. **Ch25:27** – Isaac saw, despite being blind “man strength” and wanted to pass on “The Blessing” to Esau, even though he knew it should have been **JACOB!**

On Isaac's "so called death bed" what is motivating his decision making? **V3+4!** His fleshly desires! Isaac is not thinking spiritually on what he knows and on what God has promised. Instead he is taking matters into his own hands and responding to his fleshly desires, rather than to his spiritual responsibilities!

What did Esau know?

1. **Ch25:29-34** – Esau knew he had given his birthright away to his younger brother, for a meal!
2. **Ch26:34-35** – Esau married two women when he was 40 years old and his father would have been a hundred years old, who were pagan women, and who made life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah!
3. **Ch27:1-4** – Esau knew he had already sold his birthright!

On Isaac's "so called death bed" what is motivating Esau's decision making? His own fleshly desires, because He wants his father's blessing, the oldest son would inherit 2/3rds! Esau is not thinking

spiritually on what he knows about God! Instead he too, is taking matters into his own hands and responding to his fleshly desires, rather than to his spiritual responsibilities!

So this blessing from Isaac to Esau would go against:

1. The covenant that God had established with Jacob - Ch25:23
2. The character of Esau who sold his birthright for a meal - Ch25:29-34
3. The conduct of Esau who married two Hittite women - Ch26:34+35

DEATH BED RESPONSE! V5-25

The text does not say that Rebekah is spying on her husband and eldest son, however, she is listening and when she hears what she hears, she does not confront or challenge her husband regarding God's prophecy, in fact **v8** reveals something of her scheming and meddling. Should she be meddling or trusting in God's faithfulness? **Charles Spurgeon, a Pastor from the 1850's - 1890's said "Good men have gone very wrong when they have thought of aiding in the fulfilment of promises and prophecies of God"**

You see Ch25:23 – reveals that God had already decided to continue the covenant through the youngest son, not the oldest:

- before they had been born
- before the parents developed favourites
- before the oldest son sold off his birthright to the youngest son for a meal
- before the father wanted to bless the oldest before he died
- before the mother decided to trick her husband after hearing his plan
- before the youngest son decided to play along with his mother's plan and trick both his father and his brother!

What did Rebekah know?

1. **Ch25:22** – Rebekah knew that the pregnancy was difficult!
2. **Ch22:23** – Rebekah knew why this was, and understood the prophecy from the Lord, even before the twins were born and named!

3. **Ch25:28** – Rebekah also had a favourite, Jacob!

What a family! Rebekah like Isaac and Esau are motivated by their own will, to take godly matters into their own hands, rather than wait on the Lord, and it will only result in worse family conflict!

What did Jacob know?

1. V19 – He lied
2. V20 – He lied
3. V24 – He lied

Both Rebekah and Jacob fall into the trap of taking matters into their own hands, matters which God had previously spoken about, and instead of trusting in God's appointed time and manner, they meddled! They fell into ***what worked*** for them, ***human centred effort without God's involvement:***

V6 – Scheming

V7 – “before I die”, Rebekah thinking it won't be long before Isaac dies

V8 – Obey my voice

V11 – The plan to combat the hairiness!

V12 – Jacob minimising his role, “I shall seem to be mocking him”

V14 – Rebekah preparing the meal as Isaac loved

V15 – Esau's clothing, Esau's smell

V16 – Goat skins on Jacobs hands and neck

And this is only gonna land in more family conflict!

DEATH BED REWARD! V26-29

What kind of man is Isaac, not only is he a man of peace, as we heard from Steve so eloquently last week, but building on from that we can also learn that Isaac is a kind of – touchy, feely, and tasty guy! Let me explain, **Ch25:29** – Tasting Esau's food, **Ch26:8** – Touching Rebekah, **Ch27:21** – Feeling/touching Jacob, **Ch27:25** – Tasting the meal that Rebekah had prepared, **Ch27:27** – Kissing Jacob and smelling the clothes that Jacob was wearing, disguised as Esau!

Despite the ruse, the scheming and deception Isaac still up until

V27, is unsure, but relying on “his feely, touchy, tasty senses” and not his spiritual senses, he gives “THE BLESSING” to Jacob, thinking it is Esau, **THUS DESPITE ALL 4 FAMILY MEMBERS SIN, GOD'S ORDAINED WILL IS BROUGHT ABOUT!**

Why! Because God is always directing all of our affairs, but completely without sin or tempting us to sin! What are some of the things that we can learn?

APPLICATION

1. God will always work through our ungodly family conflict to bring about His **GODLY** purposes!
2. Avoid the folly of taking matters into our own hands when God clearly reveals His will!
3. Allow God's Word to reign supremely in our homes, amidst our family affairs!
4. Develop a God centred culture in our pursuit of all future endeavours!
5. Do I mention the 3 train tracks?

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We know that Isaac was 60 years old when Jacob was born (**Genesis Ch25:26**). So, if we can figure out Jacob's age at the time of the blessing, we can figure out Isaac's age then, too. According to **Genesis Ch47:9**, Jacob was 130 years old when he stood before Pharaoh in Egypt. At this time, Joseph was 39 years old (30 years old when he came out of prison, **Genesis Ch41:46**, plus the 7 years of plenty, **Genesis Ch41:47**, plus the first 2 years of famine, **Genesis Ch45:11**).

Therefore, Jacob was 91 years old when Joseph was born.

Joseph was born after Jacob had been working for Laban for 14 years (**Genesis Ch30:35**). Jacob started working for Laban as soon as he ran from home. So, if we subtract the 14 years with Laban from Jacob's age when Joseph was born, we find that Jacob was 77 years old when Isaac blessed him. Therefore, Isaac was 137 years old when he blessed Jacob (60 years old at Jacob's birth plus Jacob's age of 77). Isaac did not die until he was 180 years

old (**Genesis Ch35: 28-29**). Thus, he gave this blessing 43 years before his death.

Isaac was urgent to give this blessing to his son, not only because he was going blind, but also because his older brother, Ishmael, had died when he was 137 years old (**Genesis Ch25: 17**). Ishmael was 14 years older than Isaac (**Genesis Ch17:24-25; Ch21:5**), which means that Isaac was 123 years old when Ishmael died. So, Isaac gave this blessing when he was the same age that Ishmael was at his death.