

Rebekah—the Anxious Matron

Genesis 27:1 – 28:5 (Part 2)

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Introduction:

Today we come to our third sermon on the account in which Isaac unwittingly blesses his son Jacob with the blessing of the firstborn when he had intended to give this blessing to Esau instead.

- This blessing was especially significant because this was the family that was to bring forth the Messiah.
- God had declared in an oracle that the Messiah would come through Jacob, but Isaac wanted it to go to Esau.

Last week we focused on Isaac and how he tried to redirect God's blessing to Esau...

- But we saw how his efforts completely failed.
- They failed because his wife Rebekah overheard Isaac direct Esau to hunt and get him some venison, prepare a feast, and bring it to him and receive the blessing in secret.
- Isaac knew he was ignoring the oracle and ignoring the unfitness of Esau to be the head of the home when he did not regard the special privilege of bringing forth the Messiah.

And we saw that the ploy of Rebekah was successful in deceiving him.

- Between her quick thinking and her husband's blindness and dull senses, she was able to deceive Isaac into thinking that Jacob was Esau—
 - so that he conferred on Jacob the blessing of the firstborn son all the while thinking it was Esau.
 - Once Isaac realised what had happened, he repented of his sin in trying to redirect the blessing to Esau, and fully accepted that God had given the blessing to Jacob.
 - The grace of God was still hard work in the old man, despite his folly, and he trusted in the Lord.

But this outcome in no way justified what Rebekah did!

- And it is to her part in this story that we turn our attention today as we consider how her part applies to us today as God's people.
 - We will consider what it is for us to be in difficult circumstances such as she was in; what we ought to do instead of taking matters into our own hands, as she did; and what the outcome is in either case.

Once again, I want to read this account to you from Genesis chapter 27, so please give your careful attention to the Word of God as I read it to you.

- Beginning in Genesis 27:1:

Gen 27:1-28:5: Now it came to pass, when Isaac was old and his eyes were so dim that he could not see, that he called Esau his older son and said to him, "My son." And he answered him, "Here I am." ² Then he said, "Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death. ³ Now therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your

bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me. ⁴ And make me savory food, such as I love, and bring *it* to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die." ⁵ Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt game and to bring *it*. ⁶ So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying,

“Indeed I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying, ⁷ ‘Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the LORD before my death.’ ⁸ Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you. ⁹ Go now to the flock and bring me from there two choice kids of the goats, and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves. ¹⁰ Then you shall take *it* to your father, that he may eat *it*, and that he may bless you before his death.” ¹¹ And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, “Look, Esau my brother *is* a hairy man, and I *am* a smooth-skinned man. ¹² Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him; and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing.” ¹³ But his mother said to him, “Let your curse *be* on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get *them* for me.” ¹⁴ And he went and got *them* and brought *them* to his mother, and his mother made savory food, such as his father loved. ¹⁵ Then Rebekah took the choice clothes of her elder son Esau, which *were* with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. ¹⁶ And she put the skins of the kids of the goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. ¹⁷ Then she gave the savory food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob. ¹⁸ So he went 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 just as you told me; please arise, sit 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?” And he said, “Because the LORD your God brought *it* to me.” ²¹ Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you *are* really my son Esau or not.” ²² So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, and he 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 Then he said, “*Are* you really my son

Esau?” He said, “I *am*.” ²⁵ He said, “Bring *it* near to me, and I will eat of my son’s game, so that my soul may 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 now and kiss me, my son.” ²⁷ And he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his clothing, and blessed him and said: “Surely, the smell of my son *is* like the smell of a field which the LORD has blessed. ²⁸ Therefore may God give you of the dew of heaven, of the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain and wine. ²⁹ Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, and let your mother’s sons bow down to you. Cursed *be* everyone who curses you, and blessed *be* those who bless you!” ³⁰ Now it happened, as soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting. ³¹ He also had made savory food, and brought it to his father, and said to his father, “Let my father arise and eat of his son’s game, that your soul may bless me.” ³² And his father Isaac said to him, “Who *are* you?” So he said, “I *am* your son, your firstborn, Esau.” ³³ Then Isaac trembled exceedingly, and said, “Who? Where *is* the one who hunted game and brought *it* to me? I ate all *of it* before you came, and I have blessed him—and indeed he shall be blessed.” ³⁴ When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, “Bless me—me also, O my father!” ³⁵ But he said, “Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing.” ³⁶ And Esau said, “Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing!” And he said, “Have you not reserved a blessing for me?” ³⁷ Then Isaac answered and said to Esau, “Indeed I have made him your master, and all his brethren I have given to him as servants; with grain and wine I have sustained him. What shall I do now for you, my son?” ³⁸ And Esau said to his father,

“Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me—me also, O my father!” And Esau lifted up his voice and wept. ³⁹ Then Isaac his father answered and said to him: “Behold, your dwelling shall be of the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above. ⁴⁰ By your sword you shall live, and you shall serve your brother; and it shall come to pass, when you become restless, that you shall break his yoke from your neck.” ⁴¹ So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, “The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob.” ⁴² And the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said to him, “Surely your brother Esau comforts himself concerning you *by intending* to kill you. ⁴³ Now therefore, my son, obey my voice: arise, flee to my brother Laban in Haran. ⁴⁴ And stay with him a few days, 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 bereaved also of you both in one day?” ⁴⁶ And Rebekah said to Isaac, “I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth; if Jacob takes a wife of the daughters of Heth, like these *who are* the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?” ^{28:1} Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and charged him, and said to him: “You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan. ² Arise, go to Padan Aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother’s father; and take yourself a wife from there of the daughters of Laban your mother’s brother. ³ May God Almighty bless you, and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may be an assembly of peoples; ⁴ and give you the blessing of Abraham, to you and your descendants with you, that you may inherit the land in which you are a stranger, which God gave to Abraham.” ⁵ So Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Padan Aram, to Laban the son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau.

May the LORD bless to us the reading and now the preaching of His Word.

As we consider Rebekah’s role in this situation,

- Let’s begin by looking at her at the time when she has just heard her husband instruct Esau to prepare a meal for him in order that he may bless him with the blessing that God had appointed for Jacob.
- It is here that we want to consider our first point, that...

I. As God’s people we often find ourselves under disobedient authority.

A. The one who has God-given authority over us is doing wrong!

1. We have seen in Rebekah’s case that her husband is stubbornly and secretly setting out to do what is contrary to known will of God.
 - He knows what God has said, he probably knows that Esau also sold his birthright, and he knows that Esau is not fit to be the priest of the home that was to bring forth the Messiah,
 - but in an act of willfulness, the doting old man determines that he is going to bless Esau anyway.
2. This kind of willfulness in husbands and rulers is all too common among God’s people.
 - a. There is the husband who decides that he is not going to lead his family in daily worship, or that he is going to make church attendance optional...

- There is the man who decides that he will not tithe, and in so doing, he decides that his family will not tithe.
 - There is the man who decides that his family will cheat on their taxes.
 - There is the man who brings ungodly entertainment into his home, either in secret or openly.
 - There is the man who decides to move to a place where there is no suitable church for his family to worship in, or who insists that his son play hockey even though it involves profaning the Lord's Day.
 - There is the man who tells his family to lie when someone comes to the door.
- b. There are also other authorities that do this to you...
- 1) There is the employer who tells you to lie on the report to the branch office.
 - 2) There are government officials who choose not to punish crime, and so bring guilt and corruption upon the entire nation...
 - They provoke God to anger against us all and sin runs rampant.
 - There are those who bring the nation into ungodly alliances or unjust wars.
 - There are those who want to make their time in office seem prosperous by stealing money from future generations—when we ought to be laying up reserves for future generations!
 - 3) And there are church elders and ministers who bow to the will of the rich on the one hand, or to the masses on the other hand...
 - They refuse to do church discipline or they bring in entertainment, all so that they can have more people.
 - Some even modify the word of God so that the gospel is lost and so that children grow up who do not know their need of Jesus Christ crucified.
 - I grew up in a large church where that had been done.
3. Husbands, leaders, let me admonish you, do not be such a wretched authority!
- a. Don't you realise the difficult place you put your family in?
 - Why would you trouble your own household?
 - Why would you bring guilt upon those you are supposed to lead to the throne of God and in the will of God?
 - Don't you know that your family is tied to you, even if you try to wash your hands of them and abandon them?
 - b. What a difficult place you put them in!
 - If they are godly, you are the cause of great trouble to them.
- B. Indeed, if you are under a disobedient authority, what difficulties you are under!
1. It can tempt you to be anxious and afraid!
 - And indeed there is a proper fear of the LORD when you know that you are in a household, a church, or a nation of disobedience!
 - It is very troubling—

- But remember that God, in His sovereignty, has put you in that situation, and that even the trouble that may come as a result can be a blessing to you if you trust in the Lord.
 - Daniel and his friends are a splendid example of this.
 - They and other godly persons were brought into exile because of the sin of their nation,
 - but for them, the exile is a place to see the hand of God moving powerfully in their midst in marvellous ways—to see powerful kings having to acknowledge their God!
- So being under disobedient authority can tempt you to be anxious...
- 2. It can also tempt you to become angry or bitter...
 - a. When you become angry toward the disobedient one in authority, you may lash out at him in anger, or speak angry words, or resort to gossip to expose him...to take vengeance in some way—
 - which is only to add your own sin to the sin he has brought your family or society into.
 - This is never the way to go, for the Lord tells us to leave vengeance with Him—He will do whatever judging needs to be done.
 - b. But perhaps even more harmful than anger, you may become bitter...
 - So that you live with resentment toward the one in authority over you, always looking for the worst,
 - coldly withholding kindness and prayers for him.
 - Bitterness will eat away at you and grow up in you and spread into other relationships as well.
 - The Bible says not to let the sun go down on your wrath—the bitter person lets many moons go down.
 - c. And of course when you are angry or bitter toward others, especially those in authority, you are really angry and bitter toward God.
 - It is impressive to see the patience of David and of Daniel toward their authorities—there is no sign of anger or bitterness in them.
- 3. Yet another difficulty that can come from a disobedient authority is confusion—it puts you in a place of confusion...
 - It can be hard to know when you should obey the disobedient authority and when you should refuse to obey.
 - Certainly, if they are calling upon you to sin against God, you must refuse to obey, but sometimes we can be confused—
 - for example, we might wonder if we should pay taxes when we know that the money is being used to fund abortion or unjust war...
 - or a wife might struggle if her husband asks her to prepare a nice dinner to impress a client that he is trying to rope in to a shady deal...
 - Should she purchase his beer when she knows that he is abusing it?

4. And besides this, there is the difficulty of getting familiar and comfortable with the sin of an authority...
 - For example, if there is excessive drinking or gluttony, it can be easy for you to join in...
 - If angry hateful words are tolerated by your father in your siblings, you can find yourself slipping into the same behaviour.
 - Sin is contagious—look at how our loose laws about marriage and divorce have led to society filled with sexual perversity.

TRANS> It is very difficult to be under a disobedient authority...

II. So what should you do when you are under a disobedient husband or ruler?

A. You should always remember that it is not just that disobedient authority that has put you in that hard place...it is the Lord your God who has put you there!

1. God will judge the disobedient authority for what he has done.
 - You don't have to worry about that.
 - If he belongs to the Lord, the Lord will chasten him; if he does not belong to Jesus, then he will meet an angry judge at the last day.
2. But the LORD has put you in that hard place to test you.
 - He does not do this to be cruel to you, but that you might grow and that you might prove your love to Him.
 - You show your love when you keep on doing His will with patience even when you are under a disobedient authority.
 - You grow in patience, in character and reputation, in hope, and most of all in your love for God,
 - just like David and Daniel did when they were under unjust authorities.

B. You must not do as Rebekah did...and take matters into your own hands.

- That is what so often what happens.
1. She sees it as a desperate situation that she must fix!
 - a. We already know her to be an energetic, strong, and decisive woman!
 - If it were not so, she never would have left her home to come to Canaan to be Isaac's wife.
 - Her energy and decisive strength are excellent qualities in themselves—remember how she drew water for the camels? and how she went to the LORD to enquire when the twins were wrestling?
 - Such strength and decision were fine attributes that she possessed.
 - b. But now she seems to feel that all will be ruined if she does not act!
 - Her boy Jacob will not get what God promised to him!
 - How foolish is that—to think that he will not get what God has promised to him unless she steps in!
 - All will be ruined—she must act to save the day!
 - She must be the saviour that comes to deliver.

- c. And consider well—she is doing this because of her love for the gospel—for the good news of the promise of salvation that was to come through Jacob’s offspring!
 - That is why Rebekah acted—because of her faith in the gospel...
 - She believed the gospel, but the problem is that she did not trust God to make it happen when she saw things going wrong.
 - She was like those silly evangelists who have people planted in the audience to go forward when they call those who wish to be saved to come forward to get things going...
 - Or those that modify the gospel to make it less offensive—the very thing that Paul did not do lest he made the cross of no effect.
- 2. You see the actions that Rebekah takes...all for the gospel promise!
 - a. Those fine qualities that were used for good are now put into the wrong kind of service.
 - With the same confidence and quickness, she hatches her plan of deception—a very dishonourable way to treat her elderly husband.
 - His disobedience does not excuse her disobedience...
 - b. She resorts to unlawful means—
 - 1) She uses deception—which she feels to be justified because she is doing a greater good!
 - But that is never right for us as believers!
 - Paul makes it plain that he has entirely renounced such means in the ministry of the gospel:
 - **2 Cor 4:2: “But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.”**
 - Of all people, we are supposed to be people of the truth!
 - Our word is to be as good as gold.
 - You may not divulge information to your enemies, but you must not lie to them either.
 - It is so easy to justify that you are doing it for the greater good, but being deceitful is not for the greater good!
 - 2) She also uses her authority...her matronly authority...
 - She orders Jacob to carry out her plans...
 - Did you notice how she twice says, “**my son, only obey my voice.**”?
 - She says it in verse 8 and in verse 13 when Jacob is uncertain (albeit not for noble reasons)...
 - And then she says this to him again in 27:43 when she is telling him to leave... “**my son, obey my voice.**”
 - She is a strong woman and she insists that her son obey her, even in the matter of deceiving his father.

- This is not an appropriate use of her matronly authority.
 - This energetic, strong, decisive woman now appears as an anxious, domineering, scheming woman.
3. There are all sorts of ways to take matters into your own hands under an unjust authority...
- a. You can resort to nagging—the very thing that you are told not to do in 1 Peter 3.
 - b. You can resort to manipulation—to clever scheming to get things to come out—not just the way you want—
 - but (of course) the way they are supposed to come out!!!
 - That is how you justify it!
 - But that doesn't make it right!
- C. What should be done instead?
1. First of all, she might have appealed to her husband...
 - a. She might have gone to him in a respectful way when she heard of his plans with Esau...
 - She might have asked him to explain the oracle to her that said that Jacob would be blessed with the bringing forth of the promised kingdom...
 - She might have asked him if they could inquire of the Lord about it.
 - She might have confessed that she had wrongly showed favouritism to Jacob, but also inquired if Isaac was sure that Esau was suited to lead their home...
 - What were the implications of his selling his birthright?
 - What were the implications of his marriage to woman who were accursed when Abraham had refused such marriages for Isaac?
 - b. Perhaps she felt that such an appeal would be of no use.
 - That might be true enough—as Peter instructs, a wife is to try to win her husband without a word if he refuses to obey the word.
 - But in a healthy relationship, a husband should welcome his wife's input—he should constantly ask her for it.
 - Many times he will find that she sees things more clearly than he does.
 - He is responsible, but she may have greater wisdom.
 - He is a great fool if he does not consult with her...
 - And he is a wimp if he does not take responsibility to make and bear the consequences of whatever decision is made!
 - c. Let me add that it is also often helpful to appeal to a higher authority.
 - For example, if your husband is disobedient and he is a church member, you have a responsibility to bring it before the elders.
 - They may rightly tell you to settle down in some cases, but it may also warrant them approaching your husband to rebuke him and even to suspend him from the Lord's Table.

- And if he is committing criminal action, it becomes necessary for a wife to report him to the civil magistrate.
 - Sometimes, this must be done for the safety of the community or of her own household.
 - And besides, they are responsible as God's ministers of justice to punish such offenses—to exercise God's vengeance.
2. But in any case, Rebekah should have given herself to fervent, earnest, heartfelt prayer! That should always be done!
- a. In a certain way, anxiety is good...
 - A woman ought to fear God for her husband and her family when she sees that her husband's plans are contrary to what God has revealed!
 - But she must not carry her anxiety, but rather cast all her care upon the Lord because He cares for her...and her household...
 - She must obey the commandment of God that says,
 - **Phil 4:6-7: Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**
 - b. Prayer has a two-fold purpose in a case like this...
 - First, it relieves our anxieties so that we do not fret and feel that we must do something—even if it is unlawful—to make things come out right...
 - And secondly, it gets God to go into action for us.
 - It is very often His way to wait to act until He hears our prayers.
 - As James says, we do not have because we do not ask—or because we ask for the wrong reasons...
 - But the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man accomplishes much!
 - It really does!
 - c. So let God hear your prayers!
 - We all know that we ought to be praying—all believers know that we ought to do this when we have authorities who disobey God...
 - But there are few who truly do pour out their hearts to the Lord at such times.
3. And then you must do one more thing—you must wait upon the Lord in patience.
- a. This is the hard part—you will want to fix it, you will want to act, but you must wait.
 - Sure, you can use lawful means—I have just told you that—but don't get desperate and turn to unlawful means.
 - b. You must believe the promises of God, as Rebekah did; but you must also trust God to bring His promises to pass without your foolish help!
 - He does not need your deceit and scheming to bring about His purposes.
 - He rather calls you to watch and see what He does before your eyes!

- c. What if it had been up to us to come up with a way to make atonement for our sins?
 - What fools we would have made of ourselves!
 - How helpless we would have been!
 - But the Lord told us to look to Him to be saved, and then He brought forth His Son, born of virgin, and put Him on the cross for our sins!
 - It was not by our cleverness or scheming, but by His wisdom and grace that we are now saved.
 - Wait upon Him and you will not be disappointed!

TRANS> With that, let us turn to consider the outcome of what we do.

III. Consider the outcome!

A. What did Rebekah gain—and what did she lose by her trickery?

1. She gained nothing by it.
 - The LORD had already decreed and promised that Jacob would get the blessing.
 - Her deception was the means that God used to bring the blessing to Jacob, but that was not to Rebekah's credit but to her shame!
 - She got a blot on her name because of what she did.
 - The LORD used Judas's betrayal of Christ too—and He used Pharaoh's hard heart to get glory to Himself in Egypt...
 - If Pharaoh had let Israel go, God's mighty hand in the ten plagues would not have been seen...
 - But that it is not to Pharaoh's credit but to his shame.
2. Rebekah did not gain anything, but she lost much by her schemes...
 - a. What she did only brought more strain in the family circle...
 - We see at the end of the story that Esau is raving mad at Jacob and wants to kill him.
 - And I am sure that what Rebekah did brought strain in her relationship with her husband—
 - though he did repent and does not show signs of bitterness to her or to Jacob when he sends Jacob off to Padan Aram.
 - b. But the outcome of this was that Rebekah lost her precious Jacob.
 - As far as we can tell, she never saw him again.
 - She was left with Esau and his Hittite and Ishmaelite wives, not to mention his resentment toward her for her part in deceiving Isaac.
 - What a nest she made for herself by all her scheming!

TRANS> God will keep His promises, despite what we do...

- but there will be dire consequences for our sin—for taking things into our own grubby hands.

- B. What might have been the outcome if Rebekah had entrusted the matter to the LORD?
1. For one thing, she would have learned to pray and to wait on the LORD.
 - Such times are very precious—they draw us into the arms of our Master in a deeper trust.
 - This is why trials—such as having a disobedient husband, disobedient elders, disobedient employers, disobedient governors—are so necessary.
 - Each day, we are strengthened in God’s love and care.
 - Is this not how the heart of David was cultivated—was it not through his times of trial that many of the psalms broke forth?
 - Trust is built not by frantic anxious acting, but by waiting in prayer—with faithful use of all the means that God has given us.
 2. And then, somehow, some way, we get to see how He delivers us.
 - There is no way to know what He might have done, had Rebekah left it all alone...
 - But she would have seen God’s deliverance in some way—in some other way than her deception, she would have seen God’s faithful hand.
 - Was this not so with David?
 - The time came when God did give him the throne—when Saul was removed and David was installed.
 - The kingdom was united because of David’s faithfulness while under authority, and then divided later because of his unfaithfulness while in authority.
 - And consider Daniel!
 - He had his disobedient authority who cast his friends into the furnace of fire—and the flames did not hurt them!
 - He himself was cast into the lion’s den, but then he got to see the Lord shutting the lion’s mouths.
 - What if instead Daniel had resorted to some kind of deception so that he was never cast into the lion’s den?
 - What if he had brought about a name change so that one of his enemies was cast into the den instead of him!
 - Then he (and we) would never have seen how God delivered him!
 3. And not only that, but Rebekah might have enjoyed peace in her home...
 - a. If God had stopped Isaac in some marvellous way,
 - Esau would not have had occasion to be angry with Jacob (he might have been angry with him irrationally, but not with good reason),
 - and Jacob would not have had to run away for safety.
 - Rebekah, if she had gone to the LORD in prayer, might have been an instrument for unifying her family, rather than breaking it apart!
 - In any case, she would not have been the cause of the division—to have been in part culpable for it.
 - She might have been able to enjoy her grandchildren!

- b. Was it not so with both Daniel and David?
 - The king, seeing Daniel's faithfulness and God's deliverance now trusted Daniel even more and promoted him...
 - And David, by his integrity in dealing with Saul, was fully trusted by the people when he became their king.
- C. I would like to testify that I have experienced this very kind of thing.
1. As a young Christian, I was slandered by a man who had authority over me. He slandered me to other men who had authority over me in ministry.
 - It was very difficult because I did not know that this had happened—I only felt the opposition.
 - It drove me to prayer and to waiting upon the Lord, and then I was finally told by one of the dear brothers who had been turned against me that this man had slandered me...
 - He had slandered others and the outcome was that these men who had been turned against me now had greater confidence in me.
 - I was tempted to leave when they had turned cold, but if I had taken matters into my own hands, I would not have seen the deliverance of the Lord.
 2. And this experience prepared me for a similar experience that came later in my life—and that lasted longer...
 - Again, there was a trusted man who was my senior who assaulted my character, impugning sinister motives to me.
 - This time, I knew about it, but there was nothing I could do but wait on the Lord.
 - After several years, the Lord vindicated me.
 - But once again, I almost ran away—I almost lost the opportunity to grow closer to the Lord in my isolation...
 - I almost lost the opportunity to see the LORD work it out and bring forth greater peace than I had known before.
 3. So I want to encourage each of you...wherever you have been...
 - you have had unjust elders and pastors, an unjust husband, unjust parents, and certainly we have injustice in our government today...
 - just wait on the LORD!
 - You will grow if you do not take matters into your own hands.
 - The LORD knows what He is doing.
 - Rest in Him and wait patiently for Him and He will bring it to pass.
 - Take your place under His wings and He will show you His saving hand.
 - Despite all the Isaac and Jacob and Rebekah did, the LORD Messiah still came forth, just as God promised.
 - He came from Jacob's offspring, and He was no sinful authority in our lives!

- He is the one who perfectly obeyed the Father, and then even went to the cross to offer Himself there for our sins...
- And God the Father accepted His sacrifice and raised Him up for our justification so that if you are trusting in Him,
 - no matter what kind of authority you are, or what kind of authority you have over you,
 - in Him you have complete acceptance with God.