

In Spite of Us

Genesis 27:1-40 | July 19, 2020

Context: In his old age, Isaac was determined to give a blessing to Esau, in spite of Esau's immorality and indifference.



Isaac (opposition)



Rebekah (manipulation)



Jacob (deception)



Esau (immorality)

****Conclusion:** There are no good role models to follow in this story!

Lessons:

1. _____: Deception divides people and brings negative consequences for a long time. If we sow seeds of deception, we will reap its consequences.
2. _____: God's faithfulness to his promises and purpose overcomes everything, including human sin, weakness, and deception.

Because God works in spite of us . . .

1. Don't ignore the _____.
2. Look to God when people _____.
3. Humbly praise Him for his _____.



**A Sovereign God works
in spite of us.**

Discussion Questions:

1. Which character in this story do you relate to the most, and why?
2. Genesis 27 reveals God and human beings to be very different. Where else in the Bible do you see stark contrasts between God and us?
3. What is one way you can apply the truth of God's Word from Genesis 27 to your life this week?



Questions for Parents to use with their children:

1. **As a backdrop to this story, read Genesis 25:21-28. Take note of verse 23. What were God's purposes revealed to Rebekah?**

Answer: God revealed to Rebekah that Esau and Jacob would become two separate peoples and that the older (Esau) would serve the younger (Jacob). God's compassion and mercy on Jacob is also mentioned in Romans 9:10-16.

2. **What did Isaac and Esau do to try to thwart God's purposes and establish their own plans?**

Answer: Even though God revealed his plans for Jacob to be blessed, Isaac sought to turn the tables on God's plans by giving Esau the family blessing (which usually would include a double share of the inheritance and sometimes a prophetic utterance). It would appear that Isaac intended to leave nothing for Jacob, however from verses 36-37. Also note that in Isaac's blessing he sought to have the younger serve the older (29), which is the opposite of God's revealed will. Note that Isaac and Esau attempted to do this without Rebekah and Jacob knowing about it.

3. **What did Rebekah and Jacob do to try to "help God out" in fulfilling His will? Was it right?**

Answer: They deceived Isaac, who was old and blind, by having Jacob pretend to be Esau so that Jacob would receive the firstborn blessing instead of Esau. Deception is a sin (1 Peter 2:1, 22), and Jacob himself would be the recipient of it from his uncle Laban later on.

4. **What should Rebekah and Jacob have done instead? Why?**

Answer: Remember that God had said Jacob would be blessed. Also note that Esau had sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of stew (Genesis 25:29-34). Despite the fact that Jacob should be the one to receive the blessing, Rebekah and Jacob trusted in their own devices to secure what God had said would happen. They did not trust God to accomplish his purposes, but sought to do it their way. This was not acting in faith. It would have been better for them to pray and seek God (as Rebekah had done before in Genesis 25:22) and to speak the truth in love to Isaac. In a similar fashion, Abraham sought to achieve God's blessing of a son via Hagar instead of waiting on God.

5. **What does this passage demonstrate about Isaac's family and people in general? About God?**

Answer: Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, and Jacob were dysfunctional in several ways in how they related to one another. They were split into factions and schemed against one another instead of working together as a team. They did not communicate well. Instead of speaking the truth in love to one another, they lied and deceived one another. They did not trust God but sought to have their own way instead of submitting to God's ways and seeking Him. The Bible reveals that we are all broken people who sin willfully (Romans 3:23). This passage also shows God's sovereignty in that His purposes were in fact established. It shows us His grace and mercy (apart from works) in choosing Jacob over Esau. The sinfulness of people cannot stop God's plans. Extra Credit: For an example of how God's sovereignty worked despite and because of man's sinful actions, see Acts 4:27-28. Praise God for His great love and mercy for ruined sinners like us and in sending His son Jesus, who paid for our sins on the cross, and gave us a new heart to love God.

6. **What have you learned and how can you apply it individually and as a family? "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope." -Romans 15:4**