

Journey Through HIStory: Jacob and Rebekah's Scheme

Text: Genesis 27:1-29

Introduction:

When Isaac was old and could no longer see properly, he asked his favorite son, Esau, to hunt and prepare a meat dish for him before giving his blessing. But little did Isaac know that the one who would get his blessing was not Esau, but Jacob.

I. Isaac's Request to Esau. – Gen. 27:1-4

- A. He wanted to make a final request to Esau **before** blessing him since he did not know when he might die for he was getting quite old.
 - *"Isaac lived another forty-three years after this blessing was given to Jacob (35:27-29)."* ^[1] (Footnotes, Amplified Bible, [The Lockman Foundation](#))
- B. He asked Esau to hunt game and make it into a savory dish (his favorite) for him.
 - *"Isaac asked for food, but he seemed to mostly glory in Esau's power as a manly hunter. We later find that he actually could not taste the difference between what Esau hunted in the field and what his wife Rebekah could prepare from the flock. It wasn't the taste of the food that attracted him, but how he prized the thought of Esau as a mighty hunter."* ^[2] (David Guzik, *Jacob Deceptively Gains the Blessing of Isaac*)
- C. *"In the willfulness of his old age, he was determined to pass on the blessing to Esau, despite what the LORD had said and what the boys had shown in their lives. The fact Isaac tried to dispense the blessing **secretly** showed he knew what he wanted to do was wrong."* ^[2]

II. Rebekah's Strategy. – Gen. 27:5-17

- A. Based on the account, it was Rebekah who **initiated** that particular scheme.
- B. She gave specific instructions to Jacob on how to execute the plan.
- C. Jacob was hesitant at first, but his mother convinced him and he eventually **agreed** and did everything according to plan.
- D. Rebekah was determined to push through and was even willing to take Jacob's curse if necessary.
 - *"May your curse be on me, my son; only listen and obey me..."* – Gen. 27:13 (AMP)
- E. She **prepared** everything that was needed (food and disguise) in order to deceive her husband.

III. Jacob's Deception. – Gen. 27:18-29

- A. He said he was **Esau**, Isaac's firstborn, when asked who he was by his father.
- B. He gave his father the dish he said he prepared even though it was actually prepared by Rebekah, his mother.
- C. He lied and even used the Lord's name in **vain** when Isaac asked how he was able to find the game (animal) so quickly.
- D. He used the disguise his mother gave him, Esau's clothes and goat skins, so his father would mistake him for Esau, his brother.
- E. He took the **blessing** Isaac thought he gave to Esau for himself.

IV. Spiritual Insights and Principles.

- A. Isaac asked Jacob **several** times who he was so Jacob had several chances to do what was right,

and yet at every point, he decided to go on with the lie.

- He was completely accountable and could not put the blame on Rebekah anymore if ever.
- B. Rebekah thought like Sarah in terms of **expediting** God's promise and thinking that God somehow needed their help to accomplish it. – Gen. 16
1. *"Now the thing is, was it God's will that Jacob receive the blessing? Yes. Did Jacob and Rebekah know that it was God's will that Jacob receive the blessing? Yes, they did. But they made a mistake and that is they knowing what God intended, endeavored to help God out in fulfilling His purpose and thus went into the deception which was a ploy of theirs to help God fulfill His will and fulfill His purpose."* ^[3] (Chuck Smith, Verse by Verse Study on Genesis 27-28)
 2. *"Why is it that we think that God can't do His work without our help? Why is it that we think that God is so dependent upon us to accomplish His purposes? Such is not the case. God can accomplish His purposes apart from our help. God will accomplish His purposes apart from us if necessary."* ^[3]
 3. *"But the work of God is never dependent upon our deception or our conniving or our scheming. We don't have to scheme and connive to get the work of God done."* ^[3]
 4. *"God is able to do His work independent. God is not dependent upon us ever. We are dependent on Him always."* ^[3]
- C. *"The patriarch's formal blessing, offered before the Lord, was equivalent to an inalterable command and prophecy, whose outcome was assured. For that reason it had great importance and tangible value, especially for the firstborn son."* ^[1]
- It was similar to what **Noah** declared to his sons when he blessed Shem and Japheth, and cursed Ham. – Gen. 9:20-27

Conclusion/Application:

There will be times when we will be caught up in a situation wherein being dishonest may seem to be the beneficial choice. However, the truth of the matter is, the dishonest choice is always the wrong choice and will always be to our disadvantage, loss, and even ruin. But the Lord will always give us an opportunity to make the right choice. Doing so may seem to be disadvantageous or even frightening at times, but we have confidence that no matter how dire the circumstance we can be of "good cheer," for Jesus has overcome the world (Jn. 16:33). Being right with God is **always** the right decision every time.

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1. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+27&version=AMP>
 2. https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/genesis/genesis-27.cfm?a=27001
 3. https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/smith_chuck/c2000_Gen/Gen_027.cfm?a=27001