

# Jacob & Esau

## Summer Series – Favorite Stories of the Bible

- God reveals himself and his work
- Specific instruction – record of his redemptive work
- Accounts of Scripture – graphic, true, hard, funny, etc
- Recount passages that have left an impact
  - Holy Spirit revealed things to us
  - made life decisions and moments of change
  - impacted by what we found
  - privileged to share with you

# Jacob & Esau

## Setting the Stage

- Abraham – covenant with God
- Sarah & promise for children
- Hagar and the birth of Ismael
- Isaac Takes Wife Rebekah – Gen. 24
- Twins born – Esau & Jacob – 25:18-26
- God says: ‘the older will serve the younger...’
- 26:34 – Esau (40 years old) marries Hittite women
- Esau – outdoorsman, Jacob – around the tents
- Parents play Favorites – Isaac – Esau, Rebekah - Jacob

# Jacob & Esau

## Simple Observations:

### 1. Family of Deceivers

- follow God, yet practice open deceit
- 27:1-4 ***“When Isaac was old and his eyes were so weak that he could no longer see, he called for Esau his older son and said to him, “My son.” “Here I am,” he answered. Isaac said, “I am now an old man and don't know the day of my death. Now then, get your weapons—your quiver and bow—and go out to the open country to hunt some wild game for me. Prepare me the kind of tasty food I like and bring it to me to eat, so that I may give you my blessing before I die.”*”**

# Jacob & Esau

a) Should have been a Huge Event

- giving of blessing massive celebration
- behind wife's back, denying God's promise.....
- conspiring with son who sold birthright

*- Now Rebekah was listening as Isaac spoke to his son Esau. When Esau left for the open country to hunt game and bring it back, Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "Look, I overheard your father say to your brother Esau, 'Bring me some game and prepare me some tasty food to eat, so that I may give you my blessing in the presence of the LORD before I die.' Now, my son, listen carefully and do what I tell you: Go out to the flock and bring me two choice young goats, so I can prepare some tasty food for your father, just the way he likes it. Then take it to your father to eat, so that he may give you his blessing before he dies."*

# Jacob & Esau

## b) Mom is eavesdropping

- listening in, keeping tabs, busybody
- doesn't confront – takes matters in own hands

## c) Conspires With Jacob

- 40 year old – should know how to stand up
- conspires to trick the 'old, blind guy
- Listens to Mom
- Troubleshoots the plan for consequences

# Jacob & Esau

- *“Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, “But my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I'm a man with smooth skin. What if my father touches me? I would appear to be tricking him and would bring down a curse on myself rather than a blessing.” His mother said to him, “My son, let the curse fall on me. Just do what I say; go and get them for me.” So he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and she prepared some tasty food, just the way his father liked it. Then Rebekah took the best clothes of Esau her older son, which she had in the house, and put them on her younger son Jacob. She also covered his hands and the smooth part of his neck with the goatskins. Then she handed to her son Jacob the tasty food and the bread she had made.”*

# Jacob & Esau

- participates in deceit
  - what about the hairy & smooth issue?
  - what about the consequences of getting caught?
  - it will appear I am tricking him – you are!
- puts responsibility on the Mom – I will take the blame
  - no remorse or repentance – fear of being found out
  - willing to do what is obviously wrong
  - premeditated sin – carry out the plan

# Jacob & Esau

## 2. Family of Lies

- He went to his father and said, "My father." "Yes, my son," he answered. "Who is it?" Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat some of my game so that you may give me your blessing." Isaac asked his son, "How did you find it so quickly, my son?" "The LORD your God gave me success," he replied. Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come near so I can touch you, my son, to know whether you really are my son Esau or not." Jacob went close to his father Isaac, who touched him and said, "The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau." He did not recognize him, for his hands were hairy like those of his brother Esau; so he blessed him. "Are you really my son Esau?" he asked. "I am," he replied. Then he said, "My son, bring me some of your game to eat, so that I may give you my blessing."



# Jacob & Esau

*Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come here, my son, and kiss me." So he went to him and kissed him. When Isaac caught the smell of his clothes, he blessed him and said, "Ah, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field that the LORD has blessed. May God give you of heaven's dew and of earth's richness— an abundance of grain and new wine. May nations serve you and peoples bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may the sons of your mother bow down to you. May those who curse you be cursed and those who bless you be blessed."*

- vs 19 – I am Esau, 20 – God provided, 21-22 – Hairy hands, 27 – smell
- blessing received on false pretenses

# Jacob & Esau

## 3. Family of Division

- deceit and lies bring consequences – division
- played favorites, choose sides, division between parents

a) Jigs Up – *“After Isaac finished blessing him and Jacob had scarcely left his father's presence, his brother Esau came in from hunting. He too prepared some tasty food and brought it to his father. Then he said to him, "My father, sit up and eat some of my game, so that you may give me your blessing." His father Isaac asked him, "Who are you?" "I am your son," he answered, "your firstborn, Esau." Isaac trembled violently and said, "Who was it, then, that hunted game and brought it to me? I ate it just before you came and I blessed him—and indeed he will be blessed!" When Esau heard his father's words, he burst out with a loud and bitter cry and said to his father, "Bless me—me too, my father! But he said, "Your brother came deceitfully and took your blessing." Esau said, "Isn't he rightly named Jacob? He has deceived me these two times: He took my birthright, and now he's taken my blessing!" Then he asked, "Haven't you reserved any blessing for me?"*

# Jacob & Esau

- want to feel sorry for Esau
- angry that Jacob more devious than himself
- panic attack in Father – found out and tricked
- never realizes it's exactly what He planned for brother

b) Consequences - *Isaac answered Esau, "I have made him lord over you and have made all his relatives his servants, and I have sustained him with grain and new wine. So what can I possibly do for you, my son?" Esau said to his father, "Do you have only one blessing, my father? Bless me too, my father!" Then Esau wept aloud. His father Isaac answered him, "Your dwelling will be away from the earth's richness, away from the dew of heaven above. You will live by the sword and you will serve your brother. But when you grow restless, you will throw his yoke from off your neck."*

# Jacob & Esau

## c) Bitterness Takes Root

- vs. 34 – bless me too – cannot
- vs. 36 – deceived twice:
  - not true – 25:28-34 sold birthright
  - double portion of inheritance & the blessing
- Sees himself as the victim
  - been wronged – injustice makes hatred ok
- ***Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him. He said to himself, "The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob."***

# Jacob & Esau

- consuming bitterness – cause hurt around you

*- When Rebekah was told what her older son Esau had said, she sent for her younger son Jacob and said to him, "Your brother Esau is consoling himself with the thought of killing you."*

*- 28:6-9 "Now Esau learned that Isaac had blessed Jacob and had sent him to Paddan Aram to take a wife from there, and that when he blessed him he commanded him, "Do not marry a Canaanite woman," and that Jacob had obeyed his father and mother and had gone to Paddan Aram. Esau then realized how displeasing the Canaanite women were to his father Isaac; so he went to Ishmael and married Mahalath, the sister of Nebaioth and daughter of Ishmael son of Abraham, in addition to the wives he already had. "*

# Jacob & Esau

## d) Family Blown Apart

*- Now then, my son, do what I say: Flee at once to my brother Laban in Haran. Stay with him for a while until your brother's fury subsides. When your brother is no longer angry with you and forgets what you did to him, I'll send word for you to come back from there. Why should I lose both of you in one day?" Then Rebekah said to Isaac, "I'm disgusted with living because of these Hittite women. If Jacob takes a wife from among the women of this land, from Hittite women like these, my life will not be worth living."*

# Jacob & Esau

## So What

### 1. God Uses Flawed People

- Does God Ordain Sin – No
- Does God Allow Free Will – Yes
- Does God Work things for His Purpose – Yes
  - Gen 50:20 ***“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives “***
- God is faithful – especially when we are not

# Jacob & Esau

## 2. Our Action Have Consequences

- choosing favorites
- encouraging deceit
- taking matters into our own hands

## 3. We Can Do Family Differently

- model the right choices
- parent on the same page
- don't grab what's God's to deliver
- Repent of our hearts