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*Safe Harbor Baptist Church*

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## ***"The Danger of living on your Feelings"***

**Genesis 27:1-23**

### **Introduction:**

Within the context of the verses, we have selected for a text we note that this text gives us insight to a story that most of us learned in Sunday school as a child.

Quickly please allow me to give a brief summary of the story before drawing out our thought for the message.

Abraham was called out by God in Genesis 12 and he was commanded to leave Family, Friends and property and sojourn in the land where God would tell him of. (Genesis 12:1-4)

The LORD had also promised Abraham that he would make him a great nation. The only problem with this, was that Sarah, Abraham's wife was barren and could not have children.

Through a series of events, both good and bad God worked a miracle and blessed Abraham and Sarah with a son of their own and his name was Isaac.

Isaac grows up and after the death of his mother he marries a lady names Rebekah.

God blesses their home with twin boys. Esau being the oldest and Jacob being the youngest. These 2 boys grew up as natural rivals because not only were they 2 boys but it was prophesied that they would be two nations (Genesis 25:23).

It is in Genesis 25:27-34 where we find the account where Esau sold his Birthright (spiritual leadership in the family) to Jacob for a bowl of pottage. Esau did not care about spiritual matters and Jacob took advantage of his brother's carnality.

Within the context of our story is this family, Isaac & Rebekah along with their 2 sons Esau and Jacob.

Isaac knows that he is getting older and the time has come for the Father to place a blessing on the eldest son, that being Esau. But Rebekah hears of this and devises this plot to trick Isaac into blessing Jacob instead of Esau.

Isaac vision is depleted, so much to the point that he cannot see. Thus, while Esau is out in the field hunting, Rebekah prepares a meal, places goat skin on the hands, arms, and neck of Jacob and sends him in to Isaac.

### **Text verses: Vs 21-23**

*Isaac states that the voice he heard was the voice of Jacob, but the hands were the hands of Esau. Instead of going by the “word” that he had heard, he went on the feelings he had!*

Point: We have many people in our churches today that would rather live and conduct their lives by how they “feel” instead of by what they hear. (The Word of God).

I believe there is a great danger in one “**Living by their Feelings**”

We are living in a day when the idea is “If it feels good do it”. This mentality is in our churches as well!

We as the people of God are not commanded to live by how we feel, but rather we are to live by Faith!

Hebrews 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

### **End of Introduction:**

#### **I. The Desire of the Flesh. Vs 1-4**

##### **1. The Perception that was Dim. Vs 1**

“And it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see,”

Isaac has grown much older than the lad we see in Genesis 22, in fact age has taken him to the point to where he is having to depend on others more than he ever has before.

He has having to learn to “walk by faith, and not by sight”.

II Corinthians 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

Someone who is physically blind has to have faith in others. Thus we devise that Isaac has no trouble being led by others and served by others because of his blind condition.

He is not a stranger to faith!

Abraham his Father is the man of Faith.

## 2. The *Perceived Direction*. Vs 2

“And he said, Behold now, I am old, I know not the day of my death:”

Isaac knows that he is older, but he is not certain of how many days he has left in this life so he wants to make the most of those days and accomplish certain task, one of them being the bestowment of a blessing on Esau.

The only problem with Isaac’s thought process is that he would not die anytime soon, in fact he lived for another 43 years (Genesis 35:28) living to be 180 years old.

But he “felt” like he would soon die.

## 3. The *Passion Described*. Vs 3-4a

“Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me some venison;

4 And make me savoury meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat;”

Isaac had an odd view of love.

Genesis 25:28 And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob.

According to this text the only reason that Isaac loved Esau, was because he ate of Esau’s venison.

This is an attribute of one who lives after the flesh!

Romans 8:5-8 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

John Phillips states in his commentary on Genesis that *“Savory meat is mentioned in this chapter six times, Venison, seven times and eating eight times. Over 20 times in this one chapter there is a reference to his fleshly desires”*

Isaac was a man who was controlled by carnal appetites, thus he thought he could do a “spiritual thing in a carnal manner”.

It is also interesting to note Isaac’s desire for “savory meat” on this deathbed.

4. The *Purposeful Disobedience*. Vs 4b

“that my soul may bless thee before I die.”

This was a sign of direct disobedience on the part of Isaac.

God had already stated before the birth of these 2 boys that the patriarchal blessing would belong to the younger son and not the elder.

Genesis 25:23 *And the Lord said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.*

*“The greatest thing he had to bequeath was his patriarchal blessing, a blessing that involved not just a property settlement, but the right of progenitorship, the right to stand in direct line as an ancestor of the coming Christ of God. That particular blessing could not be lightly bestowed nor was its disposal left up to the patriarch. The blessing had to be bestowed in accordance with the revealed mind and will of God. Isaac, then, was right in what he wanted to do, but absolutely wrong in deciding to give the blessing to his favorite, his beloved Esau.”* John Phillips, Exploring Genesis

When one lives by their feelings instead the word of God, they will always go the way of the flesh!

## II. The *Division* of the *Family*. Vs 5-16

### 1. The *Plot Developed*. Vs 5-10

*“And Rebekah heard when Isaac spake to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt for venison, and to bring it.*

*6 And Rebekah spake unto Jacob her son, saying, Behold, I heard thy father speak unto Esau thy brother, saying,*

*7 Bring me venison, and make me savoury meat, that I may eat, and bless thee before the Lord before my death.*

*8 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command thee.*

*9 Go now to the flock, and fetch me from thence two good kids of the goats; and I will make them savoury meat for thy father, such as he loveth:*

*10 And thou shalt bring it to thy father, that he may eat, and that he may bless thee before his death.*

Because of Isaac's love for venison, and his carnal appetites it caused a division in the home.

Isaac was with Esau and Rebekah was with Jacob!

When Rebekah hears of Isaac's plan to bless Esau, instead of waiting on God to work in the situation, she decides to take matters into her own hands and solve the problem herself.

Rebekah was just as wrong in her actions, as Isaac was in his actions!

Point: There is a great lesson here in the importance of having unity in the family. Most of the time it is the children trying to pit the parents against one another, but in this text it is the parents doing so.

### 2. The *Problem Declared*. Vs 11-12

*And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man:*

*12 My father peradventure will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a deceiver; and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing.*

Jacob knew that this plan would not work because he knew that Isaac would want to feel his hands!

He never questioned how they would disguise his voice but rather he knew that his Daddy would go by his feelings!

This interest me. How did Jacob know that Isaac would immediately based the validity of the situation on “how he felt”?

To me it appears as though Isaac had a “track record” of going by his feelings.

### **3. The *Prescribed Directions*. Vs 13-16**

13 And his mother said unto him, Upon me be thy curse, my son: only obey my voice, and go fetch me them.

14 And he went, and fetched, and brought them to his mother: and his mother made savoury meat, such as his father loved.

15 And Rebekah took goodly raiment of her eldest son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them upon Jacob her younger son:

16 And she put the skins of the kids of the goats upon his hands, and upon the smooth of his neck:

17 And she gave the savoury meat and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.

Rebekah goes into all this preparation for the purpose of deceiving her husband. To make things worse she includes her Son in this devious act.

The Home was not right and it started with Isaac’s love for the things of the flesh!

### **III. The *Deceiving* of *the Father*. Vs 18-29**

#### **1. The *Brothers Entrance* Vs 18-19**

And he came unto his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I; who art thou, my son?

19 And Jacob said unto his father, I am Esau thy first born; I have done according as thou badest me: arise, I pray thee, sit and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me.

Jacob was not innocent in this whole scenario; in fact, he was just as much part of this plot as Rebekah.

He starts off by telling a lie when Isaac asked who he was!

## 2. The *Bold Explanation*. Vs 20

20 And Isaac said unto his son, How is it that thou hast found it so quickly, my son? And he said, Because the Lord thy God brought it to me.

It seems as though Isaac is a little suspicious at first because he enquires how he had hunted the deer, killed the deal, harvested the dear, and prepared the meat in such a short amount of time?

Jacob being quick on his feet uses the LORD to explain this lie.

One lie, leads to another lie!

Point: To me, it is amazing how many people will use the LORD to prop up their lies!

“God told me to do this” I highly doubt that.

## 3. The *Believable Experience*. Vs 21-25

21 And Isaac said unto Jacob, Come near, I pray thee, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou be my very son Esau or not.

22 And Jacob went near unto 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 discerned him not, because his hands were hairy, as his brother Esau's hands: so he blessed him.

24 And he said, Art thou my very son Esau? And he said, I am.

25 And he said, Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son's venison, that my soul may bless thee. And he brought it near to him, and he did eat: and he brought him wine and he drank.

26 And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near now, and kiss me, my son.

27 And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the Lord hath blessed:

Just as Jacob and Rebekah had suspected, Isaac wanted to “feel” to see if it was Esau or not!

In Vs 22 he makes a sad statement “The voice is Jacob’s, but the hands are the hands of Esau”

The “Words” he was hearing was not lining up with what he felt, but he decided to go with his “feelings” than by trusting in what he was hearing!

**Point:** I can think of countless times in the ministry where people have made decisions that would eventually take them out of Church and they knew the truth! They sat under Bible preaching, but they went with how they “felt”.

**Vs 25** – He consumes the meal, and apparently enjoyed it because he didn’t even recognize that he was eating goat meat instead of deer meat.

**Vs 26-27-** He instructs (who he believes to be Esau) to come near. He kisses him, and he smells him and is finally convinced that it was Esau that was standing before him.

Note what Dr. John Phillips says in his commentary about the senses of Isaac.

*“All down the chapter we see Isaac being deceived by his senses. His sight had failed him; he was blind. His smell deceived him; he thought from the earthy smell of the garments that Jacob was Esau. His taste failed him; he thought goat was venison. His feeling failed him; he thought a goat’s skin was Esau’s hairy arm. His hearing rang true, but he could not believe what he heard.”* ~John Phillips, Exploring Genesis

Proverbs 19:21 *There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand.*

4. The *Blessing Extended*. Vs 28-29

28 Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine:

28 Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee.

Believing that Esau is standing before him, Isaac begins to pronounce the family blessing upon him.

Did the blessing belong to Jacob? Yes!

Did God want Jacob to have the blessing? Yes!

But the problem with this entire story is everyone in this chapter is living by their “feelings” instead of living by Faith in God’s Word.

Isaac is living by feelings as we have seen in the text.

Rebekah is living by feelings because she “feels” as though Jacob deserves the blessing.

Jacob is living by his feelings because he feels as he deserves the blessing as well!

I agree that Jacob was to have the blessing, but it was not their place to deceive Isaac, they should have waited on God!

#### **IV. The *Damaging Fallout*. Vs 30-46**

##### **1. The *Appearance* of *Esau*. Vs 30-31**

30 And it came to pass, as soon as Isaac had made an end of blessing Jacob, and Jacob was yet scarce gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting.

31 And he also had made savoury meat, and brought it unto his father, and said unto his father, Let my father arise, and eat of his son's venison, that thy soul may bless me.

In studying this chapter, up till this point in the story, the only one who is doing what he supposed to be doing is Esau.

He knows nothing of all the events that has taken place while he has been in the field hunting.

He finds the deer, kills it, prepares the meal and brings it before his Father as he was instructed to do.

## 2. The *Alarming Expression*. Vs 32-35

32 And Isaac his father said unto him, Who art thou? And he said, I am thy son, thy firstborn Esau.

33 And Isaac trembled very exceedingly, and said, Who? where is he that hath taken venison, and brought it me, and I have eaten of all before thou camest, and have blessed him? yea, and he shall be blessed.

34 And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said unto his father, Bless me, even me also, O my father.

35 And he said, Thy brother came with subtilty, and hath taken away thy blessing.

Isaac enquires who has come before him and begins to tremble when Esau announces himself.

Quickly Isaac recognizes that he has been deceived, and he immediately knew who had done this!

## 3. The *Agony* of the *Elder*. Vs 36-39

36 And he said, Is not he rightly named Jacob? for he hath supplanted me these two times: he took away my birthright; and, behold, now he hath taken away my blessing. And he said, Hast thou not reserved a blessing for me?

37 And Isaac answered and said unto Esau, Behold, I have made him thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and with corn and wine have I sustained him: and what shall I do now unto thee, my son?

38 And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? bless me, even me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept.

Esau was not a righteous man, and he was not a holy man, but note his agony and his desperation in this text.

It seems that he wanted his Father's blessing more than Jacob wanted the blessing.

## 4. The *Ascribed Exposition*. Vs 39-40

39 And Isaac his father answered and said unto him, Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above;

40 And by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck.

Isaac does pronounce a blessing over Esau, but it is not the blessing that he wanted or intended for Esau to receive.

It seems as though Isaac finally resigns himself to the will of God, concerning the elder serving the younger.

5. The *Anger* that was *Evident*. Vs 41

41 And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.

Because Isaac lived by his flesh and by his feelings it causes Esau to have anger and animosity towards Jacob.

The decisions you make, will either have a positive or a negative effect on others!

6. The *Absence Encouraged*. Vs 42-46

*42 And these words of Esau her elder son were told to Rebekah: and she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said unto him, Behold, thy brother Esau, as touching thee, doth comfort himself, purposing to kill thee.*

*43 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; arise, flee thou to Laban my brother to Haran;*

*44 And tarry with him a few days, until thy brother's fury turn away;*

*45 Until thy brother's anger turn away from thee, and he forget that which thou hast done to him: then I will send, and fetch thee from thence: why should I be deprived 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 take a wife of the daughters of Heth, such as*

*these which are of the daughters of the land, what good shall my life do me?*

The result of this entire text is a broken home.

Isaac and Rebekah are divided.

Esau and Jacob are divided.

Jacob is divided from the entire family!

### **Conclusion:**

Living by feelings can be damaging to:

#### **1. Couples.**

Consider the division between Isaac and Rebekah.

Only one time in the Bible do we find where Isaac loved Rebekah (Genesis 24:67)

But over and over again the Bible informs us that Isaac loved the “savory meat”

#### **2. Children.**

As a result of Isaac and Rebekah being driven by their feelings and emotions, it greatly affected their children in a negative way.

#### **3. Christians.**

We don't have to “guess” at it.

We don't need “chills” going up and down our spine in order for God to tell us something.

We have the Word of God! And God will not have us to do anything that is contrary to his Word!