

Playing Favorites

Genesis 25:19-33

Dysfunctional Families

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How do families get so fragmented?

1. Unmet **expectations** can put pressure on a home (v.19-22).
 - a. Unexpected **delay** (v.21).
 - b. Unanswered **prayer** (v.21).
 - c. Unexplained **problem pregnancy** (v.22).

2. Sibling **rivalries** (v.23-26).
 - a. Rivalries can **start early**. V.22
 - b. Rivalries are intensified by **exploitation** (25:29-34)
 - i. Never sacrifice your **future** on the altar of the **immediate**.
 - c. Rivalries are perpetuated by **deception** (27:1-40).

3. When parents **show favoritism** (25:27-28).
 - a. Sometimes parents show favoritism because of some **physical appearance**
 - b. Sometimes parents show favoritism because of **talents and abilities**.
 - c. Sometimes the favoritism gets **out of hand** (27.41)
 - d. This favoritism and sibling rivalry can **last a life time**. How did this all begin?

So:

- Don't play **favorites!**
- Don't feed **rivalries!**
- Don't **scheme** against each other and
- Don't give into to your **appetites!**
- Do seek **reconciliation**