

B. The Analogy of Your First Birth

IV. Application

- A. Turn to Christ Alone for Salvation!
- B. Work Hard at Obedience without Fear (Ephesians 2:8-10)
- C. Boast in Christ Alone!
 - 1. This will guard you from contempt
 - 2. This will keep you hungry to abide in the Word
 - 3. This will deflect the accusations of arrogance from unbelievers

I. Introduction

A. Passage Overview

- 1. The Birth of Esau and Jacob
- 2. Esau Sells His Birthright
- 3. **God Provides for Isaac as he did for Abraham** (26:1-33)
- 4. Esau Marries two Hittite Women
- 5. Isaac Tries to Pass God's Blessings onto Esau

Genesis 27:29

Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may your mother's sons bow down to you.

- 6. Rebekah Plots with Jacob to get Isaac Blessing
- 7. The Fury of Esau
- 8. Jacob Sent to Laban

Genesis 28:1-4

Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and directed him, "You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women. ² Arise, go to Paddan-aram to the house of Bethuel your mother's father, and take as your wife from there one of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother. ³ God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples. ⁴ May he give the blessing of Abraham to you and to your offspring with you, that you may take possession of the land of your sojournings that God gave to Abraham!"

- 9. Esau Marries an Ishmaelite

B. God's Grace Comes into Sharper Focus

Key Idea

We are born inherently trusting ourselves but by God's gracious self-revelation we learn to trust in God alone.

II. What Does this Story Teach Us about Ourselves?

- A. We are Born with a Sinful Self-Confidence
1. **Esau** - Having no thought for eternity
 2. **Isaac** - Thinking we know better than God
 3. **Rebekah & Jacob** - Thinking we can secure God's blessing by our own cleverness.

Proverbs 16:9 (NASB)

The mind of man plans his way,
But the Lord directs his steps.

- B. Our Pride is Utter Folly
1. ...to ignore God
 2. ...to contradict God
 3. ...to try to manipulate God

- C. Our Proper Response – Humility & Faith

Matthew 16:15-17

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For *flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.*

Matthew 16:21-23 – He Foretells His Death & Resurrection

[**Mark 8:22-33**] – Jesus heals a blind man...

1 Corinthians 4:7 (Cf. John 3:27)

What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?

III. What Does this Story Teach Us about God?

- A. Our Salvation does not Depend on Our Efforts But on God's Promise/Grace

1. God's Glory is Beyond Our Comprehension!

Romans 9:10-13

And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac,¹¹ though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls—¹² she was told, “The older will serve the younger.”¹³ As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

1. Is God Unjust?

Romans 9:14-24

¹⁴ What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! ¹⁵ For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” ¹⁶ So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. ¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” ¹⁸ So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.

¹⁹ You will say to me then, “Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?” ²⁰ But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” ²¹ Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? ²² What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³ in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—²⁴ even us whom he has called