

# How to Ruin a perfectly good family!

- Think of a place and a family that is superficially pleasant or at least harmless but not so secretly dysfunctional with hypocrisy, backstabbing, jealousy, fighting, and a broken family and you will have the family of Isaac and Rebekah!
- Can God work in your family even though it is filled with problems?
- Do you ever wonder how God can make anything good come out of all the mess you have seen?

Genesis 27:1 And it came to pass, that when **Isaac was old**, and his **eyes were dim**, so that he could not see, he called **Esau his eldest son**, and said unto him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, *here am I*. 2 And he said, Behold now, I am old, **I know not the day of my death**: 3 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; that **my soul may bless thee before I die**. 5 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.** 11 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.** 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. **18** 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 firstborn;** I have done according as thou badest me: arise, I pray thee, sit and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me. **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.** **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: 28 **Therefore God give thee** of the dew of heaven, And the fatness of the earth, And plenty of corn and wine: 29 **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. 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.** 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.** 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. 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. 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**. 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; and 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?

- Isaac is probably around 137 years old when this story takes place. He will not die for another 43 years. He has become a discouraged, depressed, bitter, selfish old man
- Esau and Jacob are about 77 years old in this story. By no means are they boys. They are grown men still acting like children
- The birthright was usually to inherit a double portion of the father's estate. It gave the beneficiary the father's authority and responsibility in the family. In essence the birthright made you the priest of the family
- The blessing refers to the father asking or praying God's favor and blessing on one of his descendants. It usually included or at least it did here
  - A sweet intimacy, tender kiss, hug, touching!
  - A spoken message about the person's value
  - Almost a prophecy about their destination
  - Full and continual commitment to the person
- Consider this story and be warned! Don't make these mistakes

- Blessings can often be the source of irritation and fighting among us
- Especially when we all maneuver and scheme to get what we want, think is ours, think we deserve
- But we will end up hurting ourselves all of those around us

## 1. The blessing that Jacob got

- a. A special intimacy, nearness **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:
  - i. He kissed his dad
  - ii. His dad smelled him
- b. Isaac asks God to do several things in Jacob's life
  - i. He asks God to prosper Jacob **28** **Therefore God give thee** of the dew of heaven, And the fatness of the earth, And plenty of corn and wine:

- ii. He asks God to make a leader out of Jacob **29 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.
- c. Jacob is made the leader of the family and the blessing and curse that God had given first to Abraham and then to Isaac is now his **29 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.**
- d. Isaac tells who Jacob will be, nations will bow down.
- e. Isaac will not give the blessing to Esau now. Once given it was given **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.
- f. Jacob now has a double portion of the family business. He is the priest and spiritual leader of the family. He has the

blessing that God gave Abraham, then Isaac, and it now belongs to Jacob

## 2. Lessons in how to destroy your family

a. Play favorites with your children **Genesis 25:28** **And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of *his* venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob.**

i. Let your children divide the two of you, the parents

ii. Allow there to be competition between the children for the parent's love

iii. Use unjust judgment and discipline because you have favorites

iv. Cause your children to fight among themselves as they seek to get it all for themselves

b. Ignore or reject God's plan and working in your family

i. Isaac knowingly decides to bless Esau **27:1** **And it came to pass, that when **Isaac was old**, and his **eyes were dim**, so that he could not see, he called **Esau his eldest son**, and said unto him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, *here am I*. **2** And he said, Behold now, I am old, **I know not the day of my death: 3** 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; that **my soul may bless thee before I die.**

ii. Isaac and Rebecca know what God promised

**Genesis 25:21** And **Isaac intreated the Lord** for his wife, because she *was* barren: and the Lord was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived. **22**

And the children struggled together within her; and she said, *If it be so, why am I thus?* And she went to inquire of the Lord. **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.* **24** And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, *there were* twins in her womb.

1. It is doubtful that Rebekah didn't tell her husband what God had told her
2. Isaac as a man of God had asked for the baby and God had answered his prayers

3. I fully believe that Isaac knew that it was God's plan for Jacob to get the blessing
  4. I think it must have been discussed around meals and family times
- iii. Isaac asked privately for Esau to go kill the animal and for them to have their own private ceremony
  - iv. Maybe Isaac knew that Rebekah would remind him of what God's will for their family was
  - v. Jacob knew that he had already purchased the birthright
  - vi. Apparently Isaac didn't really care what God wanted. He loved his oldest son and would do things the way he wanted to do them
  - vii. He rebelled against God's will for his family
- c. Scheme and seek to control your husband rather than use godly influence **27:5** 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.**

- i. Rebekah heard what Isaac was going to do. She doesn't talk to him and see if she can reason with him but rather plots to accomplish what she wants
  - ii. Rebekah has something she wants to see accomplished and is willing to lose her husband and her children to accomplish it
  - iii. Maybe she felt like Isaac was making a mistake because she realized that he was going against the promise but God's work must be done God's way.
  - iv. She doesn't appeal. She doesn't wait on God. She acts
  - v. She is willful, rebellious, devious, and totally un-submissive
- d. Teach your child to get what's coming by whatever means possible **27:13** **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.

- i. His mother tells him not to worry about what Isaac thinks, the curse, or even if the curse would be what Isaac would ask God to do
  - ii. She tells her son to just do what she says
  - iii. She gets the clothes, the smell, the food, and makes all the preparations to deceive her husband
- e. Work your magic, deception, until you lose it all 27:41

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**. 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; and 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?**

- i. She has now deceived her husband
- ii. She has caused one son to hate the other
- iii. She has to send Jacob away to never see him again
- iv. Esau will do whatever he can to break his mother's heart
- v. I doubt the marriage was the same after this
- vi. She even lies to send her son away 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?

f. Learn to cheat, lie, and deceive until you become really good at it **27:11** *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.***

i. Jacob will become a professional cheat

ii. In this verse he isn't worried about what he does wrong but if someone might think that about him or that he might get caught **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.***

iii. His cheating will only get him cheated. Laban will cheat him and he will try to cheat back

iv. He will not be changed until he wrestles with an angel and his hip is put out of joint

g. Lose all reverence to the point that you can use God and His name in your schemes **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.**

- i. Once you start lying it doesn't seem to be hard to continue
  - ii. He dressed for the part
  - iii. He rehearsed the part
  - iv. He started talking
  - v. Then he brings God into the story as though God Himself were part of the deception
- h. Let the fear of death and getting old be an excuse to do things you would never have considered when you were younger **27:1** And it came to pass, that when **Isaac was old**, and his **eyes were dim**, so that he could not see, he called **Esau his eldest son**, and said unto him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, *here am I*. **2** And he said, Behold now, I am old, **I know not the day of my death:**
- i. Old age can be a blessing or a horror
  - ii. You can use your life and experiences to train others and help them grow or you can die selfishly

- iii. You can be bitter and cranky. Isaac can't see well. He thinks he is going to die but will live several more decades
- iv. We should pray to finish well.

3. The foolishness of an old man **27:1** *And it came to pass, that when **Isaac was old**, and his **eyes were dim**, so that he could not see, he called **Esau his eldest son**, and said unto him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, *here am I*. **2** And he said, Behold now, I am old, **I know not the day of my death:***

- a. He decides to do what he wants even though it is not God's will
- b. He whines about his age and upcoming death even though it will be over 40 years before he will die
- c. He makes a major spiritual decision based on what he wants not what God wants
- d. He decides things without talking to his wife
- e. He has lost the leadership of his home
  - i. He is not a spiritual leader
  - ii. He doesn't have the heart of his wife or his children
  - iii. They live together but separate

- iv. Not literally divorced but emotionally divorced
- f. He wants to keep private what should have been a large family celebration-the blessing service
- g. He wants a selfish meal and a private ceremony because he is doing in private what he knows he shouldn't in public
- h. He is easily deceived and has lost all discernment **23** **And he discerned him not,** because his hands were hairy, as his brother Esau's hands: so he blessed him.
- i. Blame your sin and mistakes on others instead of admitting that you did what you knew you shouldn't **35**  
**And he said, Thy brother came with subtilty, and hath taken away thy blessing.** **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?

j. Maybe he feels like he deserves pity and special consideration due to his age and impending death

4. The foolishness of being hung up in the present **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.*

- a. Esau is only interested in the things of this world
- b. He sold his birthright for a bowl of beans
- c. He wants his dad's love, blessing and will work to get it
- d. He is embarrassed that he lost the blessing and gets ruled over and has to depend on his brother **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?**
- e. He accuses Jacob when he didn't care when he could have
- f. He was hungry for a relationship with his family

g. Willing to kill over something he would sell for beans earlier **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.**

5. Where is God in all of this?

- a. God's will is going to take place!
- b. God allows our foolishness to fulfill what He is going to do
- c. That is no excuse for us get involved in their foolishness
- d. Even all their failure will not hinder God carrying out His will
- e. God is not approving of our sin when He uses it all to work for good in our lives
- f. God is going to allow Jacob to go on his fleshly way until he can see just how wicked and foolish he is
- g. God will then meet him and wrestle with him until he realizes that it is not about what he does but rather what God Himself does