

Sunday Evening Message

Jersey Shore Baptist Church

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January 10, 2021 (Revised from a message preached in December 2015 and in January 2008)

Isaac's Family Failures (Dysfunctional Families)

Introduction

Chapter twenty-seven is a very sad chapter in the Scripture for in it we see the breakdown of Isaac's family. There are four primary characters in this chapter, and it is clearly evident that none of them are walking closely with the Lord at this time. All of them seem to be following the flesh, and doing that which seems right in their own eyes. There are many lessons to be learned here for our families. Pay close attention and learn from the mistakes of the family of Isaac, and try to avoid a breakdown in the family.

In chapter twenty-five, we saw Esau sell his birthright for a bowl of pottage. We learned there that he was "a man of the field", a worldly man. He acts according to the desires of his flesh. We also saw Jacob acting carnally in order to take the birthright away from his brother, which was not necessary because God already gave it to him.

I. Isaac Desires For Venison (vs. 1 – 4)

A. Isaac Demonstrates His Carnal Nature. Several times the Scripture records Isaac's love for venison and links it with his love for Esau. (25:28; 27:3 & 4; 27:9; 14)

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

Isaac was a picture of Christ; but here he has ruined that image.

Isaac was a picture of Christ in his miraculous birth; he was the child of promise.

"And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called." (Genesis 21:12)

He was a picture of Christ at the altar on Mt. Moriah in chapter 22. (See Genesis 22:1 – 19)

And, he was a picture of Christ in his marriage. (Explain Genesis 24 – Abraham sends the servant into a far country to find a bride for his son.) But here at the end of Isaac's life, he is a picture of the flesh.

B. Isaac Disobeys the Word of God by offering to bless Esau over Jacob. (25:23) Isaac favors Esau over Jacob. It is not wise to play favorites; but it is even more ridiculous to base your favoritism upon a carnal appetite.

"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." (Genesis 25:23)

Note – When the Christian today is not yielded to the Spirit of God and the Word of God, he will act much the same way and his flesh will control his actions.

Note v. 4 - Isaac did say in verse 2 that he didn't know the day of his death, but it seems that he feels his death would be very soon. Actually, his death would be more than twenty years later; after Jacob returns from Padanarum with his wives and children. The point is this: in this chapter, Isaac seems fairly sure that the day of his death was imminent, so much so that he is getting his affairs in order regarding his children's inheritance, but the reality was that he had many more years to live and serve God.

II. Rebekah Disobeys Her Husband's Authority (vs. 5 – 10)

A. Rebekah Demonstrates Her Faithlessness. God told her that Jacob would receive the blessing, and she did not have to take matters into her own hands to make it happen.

B. Rebekah Displays a Lack of Submission. She puts her love for one of her children over her love for husband. She plots with Jacob to lie several times to her husband. Rebekah cannot bear the thought of seeing her favorite son passed by for the blessing, so she conspires with him to deceive her husband. Jacob is reluctant at first but being a Mamma's Boy he submits to her deception instead of obeying his dad and God. Some theologians have taught that Rebekah was merely trying to assist the will of God as she was told by God that the elder brother would serve the younger brother (Genesis 25:23). I don't buy that. I think she was just playing favorites. Besides, God did not need her help in accomplishing His will, especially if that help would involve deception and a lack of submission to her husband.

Note – Wives need to be very careful today that they do not put their children between them and their husbands. (Ephesians 5:22 – 24)

III. Jacob Deceives His Father (vs. 11 – 19)

A. Jacob Listens to His Mother. He knew he was dead wrong in getting involved in this plot against his father and his brother.

B. Jacob Lies Five Times to His Father

IV. Isaac's Discerns Poorly (vs. 20 – 29)

A. Isaac Doesn't Recognize A False Prophet. His spiritual eyes were dim as well as his physical eyes. Jacob says that God brought the venison to him. People who are in the Word of God and yielded to the Spirit of God do not fall prey to false prophets.

B. Isaac Relies Upon His Feelings. He felt like Esau. He smelled like Esau; only the voice was Jacob's. We need to rely upon what we know to be true, and not our feelings.

V. Esau Discovers His Brother's Trickery (vs. 30 – 41)

A. Esau Disregards The Word of God. The birthright and the blessing were never his to start with. God gave them to Jacob.

Esau may have been innocent this time, but his birthright was not "taken away" from him. He gave it up, all because he wanted a bowl of "red pottage" (Genesis 25:29 – 34). After he loses the blessing, however, he is justifiably angry, but his anger crosses the line and becomes wrath, and he determines to kill Jacob as soon as his dad is dead (Genesis 27:41).

B. Isaac Delivers a Lesser Blessing to Esau (vs. 39 – 40)

C. Esau Desires Revenge (v.41)

VI. Rebekah and Isaac Deliver Jacob to Laban (vs. 42 – 46)

A. Rebekah Reaps What She Sows. Jacob will now move away from his mother. She will never see him again or her future grandchildren.

B. Jacob Reaps What He Sows. Jacob, who has deceived his father and his brother, will go to live with the master of deceivers, Laban, who will deceive Jacob several times.

Conclusion

This family is, to say the least, dysfunctional. It is hard to comprehend that all of this carnality, lying, favoritism, and hatred is present in the family that God chose to be the patriarchal head of Israel. This is a wonderful picture of the grace of God. When I read this story, I am greatly encouraged because if God could bless a dysfunctional family like Isaac's, then he can certainly bless the Erickson family, which has had more than its share of dysfunctional moments as well.

Parents –

1. Pray for your family
2. Participate in church with your family.
3. Love your family.
4. Don't play favorites (Jacob did and it caused problems)