

Genesis: From Creation to New Creation

Genesis 26:34-28:9

"Needless Deceit"— May 7, 2023



Introduction

Back in Genesis 24, we see that Isaac has found a spouse. It was clear that this was a match made in heaven. It was love at first sight. In chapter 24, we have a front row seat to see how God brought them together. At first, it seemed like things were going really well as they started off in their new family. But when we get to the end of chapter 27, we will see that Isaac and Rebekah's marriage is on the rocks, and their family will be falling apart. Why? What happened between chapter 24 and chapter 27?

Sermon Outline

1. Fear leads to deceit. Genesis 26:34 – 27:29
2. Deceit leads to destruction. Genesis 27:30-28:9

Read & Discuss

1. Read chapter 26:24-27:29

The question that the book of Genesis regularly poses to the reader is, "will you live by fear, or will you live by faith?" Remember Moses' first readers were the Israelites who were wandering around in the wilderness because they gave into fear. Sinful fear is unnecessary for the people of God because God is with us. Each character in this passage is driven by fear.

Before Esau and Jacob were born, God told Isaac and Rebekah that He was going to reverse the order of the blessing of birth - the older would serve the younger. Yet since Esau was Isaac's favorite, he wanted to pass the baton to him which was against the will of God as revealed in His word. Isaac struggled to trust God for fulfillment. His was the fear of fulfillment. His desire for comfort fueled this fear.

Do you let desires for comfort or the need of fulfillment fuel your actions and decisions? In what situations are you tempted to walk by sight and not by faith? We are to put our sinful desires to death. Desires are not a trustworthy authority. Only God's word is the authority that can be trusted.

Next, we have Rebekah. She knew God's promise - the older would serve the younger. God made that clear, but Isaac's plan was set in motion. As she stared at the circumstances, she was afraid that God wouldn't come through. When has fear of what might happen in your life become greater than your trust in God? Are you tempted to take control like Rebekah did? She very likely thought that she was doing the right thing. She felt that she had to do something to help God out. God does not need our sin to accomplish His sovereign plan. He is in control. God will do what He said He will do. He is faithful.

After Rebekah went to Jacob with her plan, the risk fell on him. If his dad discovers the lie, he could be cursed. What if this plan didn't work out? What compels Jacob to take this great risk? What motivates him? It is the fear of man. For years he suffered the pain of being overlooked by his father because he was not the favorite. He wanted the approval of **both** parents. Has there been a time when you made a decision or took a risk because of your fear of man?

Peer pressure happens to everyone. The fear of man is a snare. ([Proverbs 29:25](#)) The way out of the snare is by getting your eyes off yourself and fixing your eyes upon God. Read the Bible daily. Ask what the text tells you about God. Ask the Holy Spirit for help. Jacob's fear was unnecessary. Do you have fears? Trust in the Lord. Hold fast to His word. ([Psalm 56:3-4](#))

2. Read chapter 27:30-28:9

So far, each person in the family has struggled with a different fear. Here, we see Esau's fear of missing out. Esau believed the lie that God was not good. He thought that following God would mean missing out on what the world has to offer. Are there times when you look at what the world has to offer and think that you are missing out?

When Esau discovered that Jacob had received the blessing, he began planning how to get it back. Isaac's response to discovering the truth is dramatic. He was shaken to his core. But in his trembling, we see a glimpse

of the grace of God in his life. He was fighting against God in trying to give Esau the blessing. Fighting against God is never a good idea. Here, he puts down his rebellion and trusts God. We see the beginning of Isaac's repentance. He won't take away the blessing that he had already given to Jacob. He is getting in line with God's plan. What is keeping you from trusting God?

On the other hand, Esau was in grief, pleading for some sort of blessing. We are tempted to pity him. Remember, there is a difference between godly sorrow that leads to repentance and worldly sorrow that leads to death. ([2 Corinthians 7:10](#)) Esau accused and blamed his brother for taking the blessing, and he took no blame for devaluing the birthright. He wasn't concerned with getting right with God - he was afraid of missing out. Esau is not interested in true repentance. ([Hebrews 12:15-17](#)) Then he tried to correct his sinful choice by marrying a third wife - one of Ishmael's descendants. He is trying to control the situation for his benefit.

None of the characters here gain a thing by their deceit. It came at a great cost to their relationships. Isaac and Rebekah's marriage was on the rocks. Rebekah will never see Jacob again. Don't think that you can lie and get away with it. There are always consequences. When we lie to each other, relationships erode. We can see that in Isaac's family.

Moses was reminding the Israelites that even sinful, selfish, wicked, deceitful schemes that ruin relationships will not derail God's good plans. He is sovereign. All of the deceit in this text was unnecessary, but that it would not derail God's plan of sending a Savior from the tribe of Judah, a son of Jacob, a descendant of Abraham.

Jesus is the first born Son of God. Yet He humbled Himself ([Philippians 2:5-8](#)) to become cursed so that we could be blessed. ([Galatians 3:13-14](#)) How do we receive the blessing? God's blessing comes by His grace. Run to Christ. You will receive the blessing of Abraham.

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to confess? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at fbcum.org

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| Next week's sermon text: we turn to Genesis 28:10-22 "A Ladder to Heaven" |
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