

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

So tonight, we are going to be in Genesis 27.

As a child, I remember growing up watching many reruns of Leave it to Beaver, The Walton's and Little House on the Prairie.

It was what was on – we only had three channels.

I believe that the reason that many people were attracted to those shows was because of the family unity that was portrayed in each of those shows.

The house I grew up definitely didn't resemble any of those shows.

Instead of good night John Boy, there was "shut up and go to bed".

The family that we are going to read about in our text tonight does not resemble any of those shows as well.

Their actions resemble something we would expect from a day time soap opera or The Jerry Springer Show.

It is a family full of deception, manipulation, disobedience, distrust and dysfunction.

All four individuals contribute to the chaos in the household. There is no innocent party.

The lesson that we are to learn from this chapter is that God uses messed up people.

God uses messed up people – People like Isaac, Rebekah, Esau and Jacob and you can throw us into that group as well – because we are all messed up.

The important thing to remember is that despite the chaos, the dysfunction and the drama that goes on in our lives, **God's will is always going to get done.**

That is what we are going to see tonight.

Let's pray...

[Gen 27 NKJV]

1 Now it came to pass, when Isaac was old and his eyes were so dim that he could not see, that he called Esau his older son and said to him, "My son." And he answered him, "Here I am." 2 Then he said, "Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death. 3 "Now therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me. 4 "And make me savory food, such as I love, and bring [it] to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die."

The chapter begins by telling us that Isaac is an old man now.

Now, it only takes simple math to figure out that Isaac is **137 years old** when the events of chapter 27 happen.

Interestingly, this is the same age that Ishmael had passed away – so maybe he felt that his time on earth was coming to an end as well.

Now I believe that if we figured that Isaac was on his death bed, we might be a little bit more sympathetic to his actions. However, Isaac would actually live another 43 years before he died.

Since Isaac is 137, that makes Jacob and Esau – 77 years old at this time of this incident. They are not immature teenagers – though they will definitely act like it.

So here Isaac wants to give his blessing to Esau but before he does, he asks Esau to go hunt some game and make his favorite dish.

There is a major problem with this,

You see, God had already hinted that the blessing was going to go through Jacob...

Remember, Rebekah was told back in chapter 25,

[Gen 25:23 NKJV] 23 And the LORD said to her: "Two nations [are] in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; [One] people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger."

Isaac was willing and determined to give Esau the blessing despite God already making the decision that it belonged to Jacob.

Isaac was willing to give Esau the blessing despite Jacob having the birthright – remember, Esau sold it for a bowl of soup.

Isaac was willing to give Esau the blessing despite the grief that he brought to the family by marrying the two Canaanite women at the end of chapter 26.

Why did Isaac want to bless Esau so bad???

Remember what the scriptures tell us about Isaac – Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game.

Isaac did this because he was more willing to feed his own flesh than be obedient to the will of God.

Notice that Isaac is doing it secretly – he isn't announcing it to anyone, he probably knows that Rebekah is going to give him grief regarding his disobedience.

And that is something that we need to be careful of,

**[Pro 18:1 NKJV] 1 A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire;
He rages against all wise judgment.**

That is what Isaac is doing here and there are many people that live their lives with this mindset today.

They live their lives in isolation thinking that they will get away with their sin because no one will find out.

They don't want their sin exposed.

However, they forget that God still knows...

Isaac in this chapter provides us a picture of a believer who has backslidden. He walked away from God to pursue the desires of the flesh. Two chapters ago we saw Esau sell his birthright trying to satisfy his fleshly appetite, here Isaac falls and becomes disobedient trying to satisfy his own fleshly desires.

5 Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt game and to bring [it]. 6 So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, "Indeed I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying, 7 'Bring me game and make savory food for

me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the LORD before my death.'

In verse 5, we have Rebekah eavesdropping – now eavesdropping is just as bad as gossiping. They complement each other.

We saw that Sarah was another eavesdropper when the Lord was speaking to Abraham and she laughed.

So since Rebekah finds out what Isaac is planning on doing, she begins to manipulate Jacob.

Keep in mind that throughout this entire process Rebekah could have easily gone to Isaac to talk some sense to him and remind him that Jacob was supposed to get the blessing –

It just shows the distrust between Isaac and Rebekah that Rebekah had to resort to this deception.

More importantly, it showed the distrust that they both had toward God.

So let's see her plan.

8 "Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you. 9 "Go now to the flock and bring me from there two choice kids of the goats, and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves. 10 "Then you shall take [it] to your father, that he may eat [it], and that he may bless you before his death."

Rebekah knew Isaac.

Rebekah knew that Isaac couldn't tell the difference between her soup and Esau's soup. The reason that Isaac loved Esau's soup was that it came from a manly man – from a hunter who lived off of the world. Isaac was in love with the person that Esau had become and by partaking of his soup, that was his way of being in the world.

11 And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Look, Esau my brother [is] a hairy man, and I [am] a smooth-[skinned] man. 12 "Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him; and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing." 13 But his mother said to him, "[Let] your curse [be] on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go,

get [them] for me." 14 And he went and got [them] and brought [them] to his mother, and his mother made savory food, such as his father loved. 15 Then Rebekah took the choice clothes of her elder son Esau, which [were] with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. 16 And she put the skins of the kids of the goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. 17 Then she gave the savory food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.

Jacob was willing to go along with the plan – however, he was worried that it might not work because he wasn't hairy like his brother.

Rebekah insisted that Jacob obey her command - in fact the statement that she makes at the end of verse 13, "[Let] your curse [be] on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get [them] for me." What Rebekah is saying is whatever happens, I will take the fall – it is on me. And we will see this happen at the end of the chapter.

Rebekah's deception resulted in her being separated from the one she loved – Jacob. At the end of the chapter, Rebekah and Jacob don't see each other again.

So now, let's see if the plan actually worked...

18 So he went to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am. Who [are] you, my son?" 19 Jacob said to his father, "I [am] Esau your firstborn; I have done just as you told me; please arise, sit and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me." 20 But Isaac said to his son, "How [is it] that you have found [it] so quickly, my son?" And he said, "Because the LORD your God brought [it] to me."

Jacob goes into the room with the savory soup while wearing Esau's clothes and the goat skin on his hands and the back of his neck.

Jacob probably had to change his voice to sound like Esau and the plan almost fails from the beginning when Isaac questions the speed in which the food arrived.

I asked you to underline Jacob's response because of what he didn't say.

Jacob said "Because the Lord your God brought it to me and not the Lord our God brought it to me.

It appears that Jacob didn't recognize Yahweh as his God, even at the age of 77 years.

Jacob is going to have to go through some hard times in his life before he decides to make Yahweh his God as well.

21 Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you [are] really my son Esau or not." 22 So Jacob went near to 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 did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him. 24 Then he said, "[Are] you really my son Esau?" He said, "I [am]." 25 He said, "Bring [it] near to me, and I will eat of my son's game, so that my soul may bless you." So he brought [it] near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank. 26 Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near now and kiss me, my son." 27 And he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the

smell of his clothing, and blessed him and said: "Surely, the smell of my son [Is] like the smell of a field Which the LORD has blessed. 28

Therefore may God give you Of the dew of heaven, Of the fatness of the earth, And plenty of grain and wine. 29 Let peoples serve you, And nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, And let your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed [be] everyone who curses you, And blessed [be] those who bless you!"

The story goes that two men were working together in a very tight place and it became obvious that someone's deodorant wasn't working. The first man says, "Wow! I think the deodorant of one of us has quit working." The other fellow answered, "It must be yours because I don't use any!"

Well, neither did Esau. And I guess Isaac liked it.

Even though Isaac was suspicious of who stood before him, it sounded like Jacob but he smelled like Esau and he felt like Esau.

Therefore Isaac concluded that it must have been Esau and gave the blessing to Jacob instead.

One would think that Isaac would have spent some time in prayer or in worship of the Lord before giving his blessing – all he cared about was satisfying his flesh as he ate of the soup, the bread and the wine.

30 Now it happened, as soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting. 31 He also had made savory food, and brought it to his father, and said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that your soul may bless me." 32 And his father Isaac said to him, "Who [are] you?" So he said, "I [am] your son, your firstborn, Esau." 33 Then Isaac trembled exceedingly, and said, "Who? Where [is] the one who hunted game and brought [it] to me? I ate all [of it] before you came, and I have blessed him--[and] indeed he shall be blessed."

In verse 33, Isaac realizes that he has been tricked by Jacob but most importantly realized that God's hand was behind it all.

Isaac realizes that his plan to bless Esau instead of Jacob has failed.

He doesn't attempt to take back the blessing given to Jacob.

34 When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, "Bless me--me also, O my father!" 35 But he said, "Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing." 36 And [Esau] said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing!" And he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?" 37 Then Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Indeed I have made him your master, and all his brethren I have given to him as servants; with grain and wine I have sustained him. What shall I do now for you, my son?"

Upon learning that his father had given away the blessing that he thought he was going to receive, Esau begins to cry.

Esau begins to play the victim card – Jacob didn't take away his birthright, he sold it to Jacob for a bowl of lentil soup.

[Heb 12:14-17 NKJV] 14 Pursue peace with all [people], and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: 15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness

springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; 16 lest there [be] any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. **17 For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.**

The point is that Esau may have sought the blessing with tears, but he didn't repent from his own worldly ways.

It's not enough to just cry over our sin. God is looking for repentance. God is looking for a change in our behavior.

Apostle Paul teaches us that there are different kinds of "sorrow" when it comes to our sin.

[2Co 7:8-11 NKJV] 8 For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while. 9 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow produces repentance [leading] to

salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. 11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, [what] clearing [of yourselves], [what] indignation, [what] fear, [what] vehement desire, [what] zeal, [what] vindication! In all [things] you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

Paul makes a clear separation between sorrow and repentance. They are not the same things!

One can be sorry for their sin without repenting from their sin.

Sorrow describes a feeling, but repentance describes a change in both the mind and in the life.

That is what God is after.

38 And Esau said to his father, "Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me--me also, O my father!" And Esau lifted up his voice and wept. **39** Then Isaac his father answered and said to him: "Behold, your dwelling shall be of the fatness of the earth, And of the dew of heaven from above. **40** By your sword you shall live, And you shall

serve your brother; And it shall come to pass, when you become restless, That you shall break his yoke from your neck."

Esau and his descendants the Edomites would be violent people. They would serve Jacob and his descendants, but there would be a day when the Edomites would stop serving Israel. It would happen in the days of King Joram of Judah (2Ki. 8:20-22).

41 So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, "The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob." 42 And the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said to him, "Surely your brother Esau comforts himself concerning you [by intending] to kill you. 43 "Now therefore, my son, obey my voice: arise, flee to my brother Laban in Haran. 44 "And stay with him a few days, until your brother's fury turns away, 45 "until your brother's anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him; then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereaved 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 takes a wife of the daughters of Heth, like these [who are] the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?"

Out of respect, Esau is going to wait until his father dies before he kills his brother, but he still intends on killing Jacob. What he doesn't know is that Pop won't die for another 43 years.

In verse 44, Rebekah has no idea the mess that they have created and sends Jacob away for a few days. Those few days turn to 20 years and this is the last time that Rebekah sees the son that she loves.

The last verse of the chapter is a significant one because Rebekah now manipulates Isaac into sending Jacob away to find a bride.

In this tragic story, everyone lost.

Each of the main characters – Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, and Jacob – schemed and maneuvered in human wisdom and energy, rejecting God's word and wisdom. Nevertheless, God still accomplished His purpose.

You see, it is not simply knowing what God's will is for our lives, we also have to make sure we fulfill His will the right way.

Amen.

Let's pray...

