



Part Two: Manage the Dysfunction That Comes with the Next Level Dream

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Yearly Theme: How to Build a Future That Will Last

Series: Face Your Level Part 2 (Volume 2)

Series Text: Genesis 25:19–34; 26:1–25 (Read on Your Own)

Note: God gave Isaac and Rebekah the children they desired, but receiving the dream did not eliminate dysfunction from their family.

- 27 The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents. 28 Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, *loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.*
- 29 Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. 30 He said to Jacob, “Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I’m famished!” (That is why he was also called Edom.)
- 31 Jacob replied, “First sell me your birthright.” 32 “Look, I am about to die,” Esau said. “What good is the birthright to me?” 33 But Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob. 34 Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright. (**Genesis 25:27–34, NIV**)

A. Healthy Soil Allowed Individuality

“Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents.” (**Genesis 25:27**)

- The boys were different, and initially they were allowed to be different.
- Esau was outdoors-oriented. Jacob was comfortable around the tents. Neither difference automatically made one son better than the other.

Key Statement: Healthy soil allows people to become who God designed them to be.

Note: The goal is not to make everyone look, think, work, or serve exactly alike. The goal is to help each person develop according to God’s design.

B. Dysfunctional Soil Created Favoritism

“Isaac...loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.” —**Genesis 25:28**

- The problem was not that the sons were different. The problem was that the parents allowed their preferences to create divisions.
- Isaac preferred Esau because he enjoyed the food Esau provided. Rebekah preferred Jacob. The parents’ private preferences eventually became the family’s public conflict.

Key Statement: What parents privately favor, families eventually fight over.

Favoritism creates:

- Competition instead of cooperation.
- Manipulation instead of trust.
- Resentment instead of security.
- Rivalry instead of relationship.

C. Manipulative Soil Exploited Weakness

**Jacob saw Esau's hunger as an opportunity. "First sell me your birthright."
—Genesis 25:31**

- Jacob did not create Esau's weakness, but he exploited it. Esau was physically exhausted, emotionally impulsive, and spiritually shortsighted.

Key Statement: Dysfunctional cultures use another person's weakness for personal advantage.

- Jacob wanted the right thing, and the birthright, but he pursued it in the wrong way.

Key Statement: Wanting something God promised does not justify using manipulation to obtain it.

D. Devalued Soil Traded the Future for the Present "So Esau despised his birthright." —Genesis 25:34

- **The Hebrew word translated "despised" is *bāzâ*. It means to regard something as insignificant, to treat it with contempt, or to assign too little value to it.**
- ***Esau did not merely dislike his birthright. He treated something valuable as though it were worthless.***

Note: He exchanged:

- A permanent inheritance for temporary relief.
- A future blessing for present satisfaction.
- Spiritual responsibility for physical appetite.
- Something generational for something momentary.

Note: The birthright was the legal privilege of the firstborn. The blessing was the father's prophetic declaration of God's favor and future over that privilege.

Key Statement: Esau's greatest mistake was not that he became hungry. *His greatest mistake was allowing a temporary appetite to determine the value of his future.*

Question: What are you in danger of trading because of how you feel right now?

Next Time: Facing the Famine at Your Next Level