

HEROES (2 of 6)

Pastor Bill Bowers | October 28, 2018

Isaac and Jacob

Scripture: Genesis 27:1-13 (NLT)

“Words spoken in deep love or deep hate set things in motion in the human heart that can never be reversed.” —Frederick Buechner

- Jacob is searching for the informal **blessing of the firstborn** .

“In a sense, the blessing of the firstborn is to have the father look at you and say, ‘You are uniquely precious to me. I adore you. You will bring your father and this family great honor.’ ” —Matt Francisco

- A good family is not going to **fix you** .

Grace = Nothing you can do to make God love you more, or make God love you less, than He does right now!

- Every person can have the **firstborn blessing** of their father.

Colossians 1:15-18 (NLT) *“Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can’t see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything.”*

- Because Jesus **dressed up** like us, we get to **dress up** like him.

HOMEGROUP & PERSONAL STUDY QUESTIONS

Scripture: Genesis 27:1-13

1. Pastor Bill shared this quote from Frederick Buechner; “Words spoken in deep love or deep hate set things in motion in the human heart that can never be reversed.” Consider also the words from James 3:8-10. Can you recall any times in your life where “loving words of affirmation” have shaped who you are today? Can you recall times in your life where “hateful words” have shaped who you are today? If you are able, please share an experience.
2. Blessing was/is an important part of the of the culture of Jesus. What does blessing and/or being blessed mean to you?
3. We were given a definition of grace during our teaching; “nothing you can do to make God love you more, or make God love you less than he does right now.” Do you agree or disagree with this? Please explain your answer. How does your belief in this statement affect the way you live out your daily life?
4. If you are familiar with the life of Jacob (consider reading about Jacob’s life in the Book of Genesis), what are your thoughts about him? Do you think he lived an exceptionally “Godly” life? How did God treat him in relation to the person he was? What does this example mean to you?
5. Pastor Bill shared the following idea with us; “Because Jesus dressed up like us, we get to dress up like him.” What do you think about this? In what ways do you think you might be able to “dress up” or “be like” Jesus?
6. After our teaching this week, is there anyone God might be bringing to your memory that you can share a blessing with? Is there anyone you might be able to release from negative words from your past? How will you respond?