

## January 27-Genesis 27

Genesis 27 is, in some ways, the culmination of Esau's misstep in Genesis 25. However, it is more than that as well. The story of Jacob securing Isaac's blessing by deception is part of a larger pattern in Jacob's life and, once again, an illustration that appearances can be deceiving in this fallen world.

In verse 1 we read that Isaac "was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see." Isaac was nearing the end of his life and so he called for his oldest son, Esau, so that he could give him his blessing. This was part of the birthright that Esau forfeited for a meal in Genesis 25. Now, we read this and it may not make total sense to us so let's understand what this blessing was in the first place. If you remember, way back in Genesis 12, God promised Abraham that he would make him a great nation. The way that God designed this to take place was through a line of descendants from Abraham. Isaac was Abraham's only legitimate son, so he was the carrier of the covenant blessing and now Isaac is looking, at least in part, to designate Esau as the carrier for the next generation. In short, this was a huge deal. This blessed descendant would be a part of the God-ordained line of blessing that would ultimately bring about Jesus Himself.

So, Isaac looks for Esau, but Rebekah hears Isaac's conversation with Esau and informs Jacob (her favorite) so that Jacob could receive the blessing instead. Rebekah devises a scheme which conceals Jacob's true identity and Isaac believes the charade totally. Isaac blesses Jacob instead of Esau and nothing can be done about it once Isaac pronounces his blessing. This is an enormously momentous event and it illustrates for us an important point, we should be cautious in what we say and do. Even though the majority of what we say is nowhere near as important as what Isaac proclaimed over Jacob, it is important for us to remember the weight and permanent nature of our words. It is very true that whatever we say can never be taken back. For this reason, we would be wise to measure our words very carefully. We all know what it is like to say something about a situation only to discover that the circumstances were not what we thought they were at all! Furthermore, we must remember that we can be betrayed even by those who are closest to us. This was true for Isaac, it is true in our lives, and it was even true in the life of Christ as He was betrayed by one of His disciples, Judas. The good news for us is that while we may be fooled God is not. God had prophesied centuries before the life of Christ through His prophet Zechariah that Judas would betray Christ (11:12-13). God was not and has not been and will never be deceived and even in the moments in which we are fooled, He is Sovereign and will still accomplish His purposes. However, we should do our best to prayerfully discern and act in a way that is wise.

These moments can be quite humbling and embarrassing. My prayer for you is that you would investigate situations in more detail than Isaac did before he pronounced a blessing over the wrong son. Let's make sure we know what we are saying and the situation we are talking about before we utter words that can never truly be taken back!