

Jacob Receives the Blessing

Genesis 25:19-34, 27:1-40



The Story

Abraham had a son named Isaac. Isaac married Rebekah. Isaac and Rebekah were sad because they did not have children. Isaac prayed to God asking for children and God heard his prayer. Rebekah was going to have twins!

God told Rebekah that even though it was the older son who was important, her younger son would be more important than the older son.

Rebekah's first baby had red hair all over. They named him Esau. The younger son was born hanging on to the older brother's foot. He was called Jacob.

So the boys grew. Esau was a good hunter, a man who liked to be outdoors. Jacob was a shepherd and liked to stay near the tents.

Isaac loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob. This was not good. God wants parents to love all their children the same.

One day Jacob cooked a stew and Esau came in from the field very hungry.

Esau said to Jacob, "Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am hungry."

Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright." Since Esau was the older son, he had a special inheritance from his father.

Esau said, "Look, I am about to die, so what is this birthright to me?" So Esau sold his birthright to Jacob and Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils. Esau then ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Esau did not treat his birthright as he should have. Now it belonged to Jacob.

When Isaac was old and he was blind, he called Esau his older son and said to him, "My son."

Esau said, "Here I am."

Isaac said, "I am old. I do not know when I will die. Go out with your bow and arrow and hunt meat, cook it, and bring it to me. I will bless you before I die."

Was this the son God wanted to have the blessing?

Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau. She told Jacob to bring two goats and she would make food for Isaac that would taste like Esau's cooking. Then

Jacob should take the food to his father and pretend he is Esau so that he would get the blessing.

Does this sound like a honest plan?

Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Look, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth-skinned man. 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."

Rebekah took clothes of Esau's and put them on Jacob. She put the skins of the kids of the goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. Then she took the wild tasting food and the bread, which she had made, and gave it to Jacob.

Jacob went to his father and said, "My father."

Isaac said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?"

Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn; I have done just as you told me; please arise, sit and eat my food and bless me."

Isaac said, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?"

Jacob said, "Because the LORD your God brought it to me."

Is Jacob telling the truth?

Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel

you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not." So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, and Isaac felt Jacob and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau."

Isaac did not recognize Jacob, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him.

After eating and drinking Isaac said to Jacob, "Come near now and kiss me, my son."

Jacob came near and kissed his father; and Isaac smelled the smell of Esau on Jacob's clothing, and blessed him and said, "May God give you plenty of grain and wine. Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be master over your brother. One day the Savior will come from your family."

Jacob had just left his father when Esau came in from hunting. He cooked food and brought it to his father. "Come and eat, Father, and bless me," Esau said.

Isaac said to him, "Who

are you?"

Esau said, "I am your older son, Esau."

Isaac shook and said, "Who? I already gave my blessing and whoever is blessed keeps the blessing." When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried very much and said to his father, "Bless me also, O my father!"

But Isaac said, "Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing."

Esau said, "He took away my birthright, and now look,

he has

taken away my blessing! Isn't there a blessing left for me?"

Then Isaac said to Esau, "Indeed I have made him your master. I have given him the blessing of the Savior from his family."

Then Esau hated his brother Jacob and wanted to kill him.

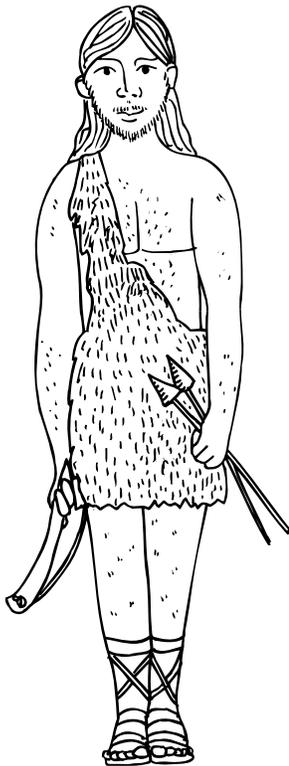
Activity One - Find the words from the lesson in the WORD SEARCH and tell how they fit the lesson.

ISAAC
REBEKAH
ESAU
JACOB
BLESSING
BIRTHRIGHT
JESUS
LOVE

B	I	R	T	H	R	I	G	H	T
L	R	W	I	D	E	M	Y	I	D
E	S	A	U	O	B	L	T	E	G
S	O	E	J	J	E	S	U	S	J
S	H	Q	A	A	K	B	S	L	K
I	S	A	A	C	A	V	K	O	L
N	P	K	B	O	H	C	F	V	Z
G	M	C	L	B	X	Q	H	E	C

It was the LORD's will that Jacob was given the blessing that the Savior was to come from his family.

Activity Two - Look at the pictures of Esau and Jacob. Decide if the word in the middle describes Esau or Jacob and draw a line to their picture.



Esau

first born

second born

shepherd

hunter

hairy red

stayed by tents

liked outdoors

loved by Isaac

loved by Rebekah

chosen by God to be Jesus' ancestor



Jacob

It is God's will that we receive earthly blessings and eternal salvation through Jesus.

Passages

James 1:14 – Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires.

1 John 3:15 – Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

The Lord's Prayer – Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Hymn - TLH #418 v.1

My God, my Father, while I stray
Far from my home on life's rough way,
Oh, teach me from my heart to say,
"Thy will be done."

Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank You for helping us learn the lesson today. Help us to believe and trust that Your will be done. We know it is Your will that all people be saved because of Your Son, Jesus', death on the cross. Help us to spread that saving message to our friends, family and neighbors. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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One day Jacob cooked a stew and Esau came in from the field very tired and hungry.

Esau said to Jacob, "Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am hungry."

Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright." Since Esau was the older son, he had a special inheritance from his father.

Esau said, "Look, I am about to die, so what is this birthright to me?" So Esau sold his birthright to Jacob and Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of beans called lentils. Esau then ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Esau did not treat his birthright as he should have. Now it belonged to Jacob.

When Isaac was old and he was blind, he called Esau his older son and said to him, "My son."

Esau said, "Here I am."

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Was this the son God wanted to have the blessing?

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Does this sound like a fair idea?

Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Look, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth-skinned man. 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."

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Jacob said, "Because the LORD your God brought it to me."

Is Jacob telling the truth?

Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not." 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."

Isaac did not recognize Jacob, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so Isaac blessed him.

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Jacob came near and kissed his father; and he smelled the smell of his clothing, and blessed him and said, "May God give you plenty of grain and wine. Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be master over your brother. One day the Savior will come from your family."

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S	H	Q	A	A	K	B	S	L	K
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N	P	K	B	O	H	C	F	V	Z
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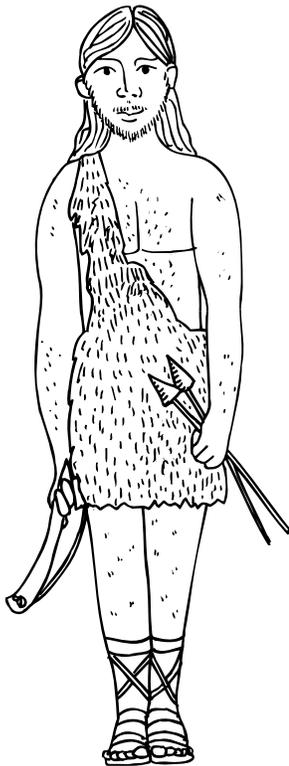
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Esau



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1 John 3:15 - Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Hymn - TLH #418 v. 1, 2

My God, my Father, while I stray
Far from my home on life's rough way,
Oh, teach me from my heart to say,
"Thy will be done."

Tho' dark my path and sad my lot,
Let me be still and murmur not
Or breathe the prayer divinely taught,
"Thy will be done."

Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank You for helping us learn the lesson today. Help us to believe and trust that Your will be done. We know it is Your will that all people be saved because of Your Son, Jesus', death on the cross. Help us to spread that saving message to our friends, family and neighbors. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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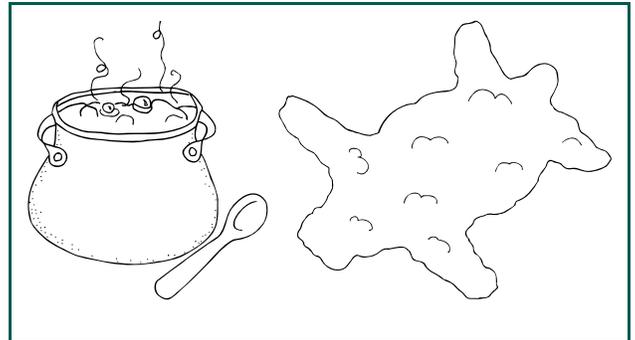
This is a drawing of stew and goat skin.

They will both be misused in the lesson today.

Listen carefully to see how all four people of this family needed to remember that God's will shall and will be done.

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, be present now,
Our hearts in true devotion bow,
Thy Spirit send with grace divine,
And let Thy truth within us shine. Amen



The Story - Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-40

This is the genealogy of Isaac, Abraham's son.

Abraham begot Isaac. {20} Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah as wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padan Aram, the sister of Laban the Syrian.

{21} Now Isaac pleaded with the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived. {22} But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If all is well, why am I like this?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.

{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."

{24} So when her days were fulfilled for her to give birth, indeed there were

twins in her womb. {25} And the first came out red. He was like a hairy garment all over; so they called his name Esau. {26} Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

{27} So the boys grew. And Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but Jacob was a mild man, dwelling in tents. {28} And Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

{29} Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he was weary. {30} And Esau said to Jacob, "Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary." Therefore his name was called Edom.

{31} But Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright as of this day."



{32} And Esau said, "Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?"

{33} Then Jacob said, "Swear to me as of this day." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.

{34} And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way.

Thus Esau despised his birthright.

{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."

{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.' {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."

{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.

{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."

{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!"

{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."

{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?"

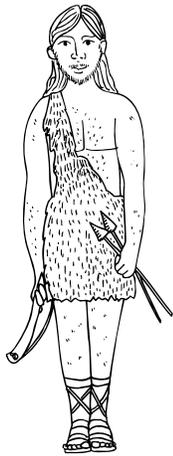
{37} Then Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Indeed I have made him your master, and all his brethren I have given to him as servants; with grain and wine I have sustained him. What shall I do now for you, my son?"

{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."

Outer Aim - It was the LORD's will that Jacob was given the blessing that the Savior was to come from his family.

What the Story Tells Us - Decide if the words apply to Esau or Jacob. Write the letter under the correct name.



Esau

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| A. first born | H. loved by Isaac |
| B. second born | I. loved by Rebekah |
| C. shepherd | J. chosen by God to be Jesus' ancestor |
| D. hunter | K. holding brother's heel |
| E. hairy red | |
| F. stayed by tents | |
| G. liked outdoors | |



Jacob

What the Bible Tells Us - Put these sentences in the order they happened in the lesson. Use the numbers 1 through 5.

- _____ Rebekah helped Jacob prepare food and dress like Esau.
- _____ Esau came in to Isaac and realized Jacob now had the blessing and birthright.
- _____ Isaac told Esau to hunt food and come back for the blessing.
- _____ Jacob went into Isaac dressed like Esau and received the blessing.
- _____ Rebekah overheard Isaac tell Esau to come for the blessing.

Your Turn - List the blessings Jacob received. Now list a few of the blessings you have received from God. Be sure to list the important ones first.

Jacob's Blessings:

My Blessings:

Inner Aim It is God's will that we receive earthly blessings and eternal salvation through Jesus.

Passages

James 1:14 - Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires.

1 John 3:15 - Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

What does this mean?

God's good and gracious will is certainly done without our prayer,
but we pray in this petition that it be done among us also.

How is God's will done?

God's will is done when He breaks and stops every evil will and plan of those who do not want us to hallow His name or let His kingdom come, such as the will of the devil, of the world, and of our own flesh. His will is also done when He gives us strength and keeps us firm in His Word and in faith for as long as we live. This is God's good and gracious will.

(Sydow Catechism © 2000)

Hymn - TLH #418 v. 1, 2, 8

My God, my Father, while I stray
Far from my home on life's rough way,
Oh, teach me from my heart to say,
"Thy will be done."

Tho' dark my path and sad my lot,
Let me be still and murmur not
Or breathe the prayer divinely taught,
"Thy will be done."

Then, when on earth I breathe no more,
The prayer, oft mixed with tears before,
I'll sing upon a happier shore,
"Thy will be done."

Prayer

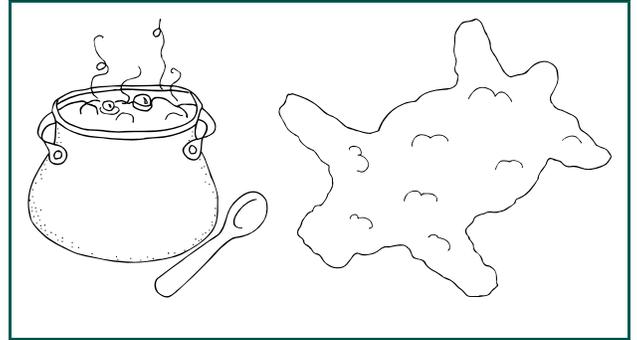
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Thus Esau despised his birthright.

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{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.

{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."

{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!"

{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."

{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?"

{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."

Outer Aim - It was the LORD's will that Jacob was given the blessing that the Savior was to come from his family.

What the Story Tells Us - Using the Bible's description of Esau and Jacob in Genesis 25, briefly describe Isaac and Rebekah's children.



ESAU

JACOB



What the Bible Tells Us - Put these sentences in the order they happened in the lesson by placing the numbers 1, 2, 3 etc. in the blank to indicate the correct order..

- _____ Rebekah helped Jacob prepare food and dress like Esau.
- _____ Esau came in to Isaac and realized Jacob now had the blessing and birthright.
- _____ Isaac told Esau to hunt food and come back for the blessing.
- _____ Jacob went into Isaac dressed like Esau and received the blessing.
- _____ Rebekah overheard Isaac tell Esau to come for the blessing.

Your Turn - Sometimes God answers prayers with "Yes," "No," "Wait." Can you think of times in your life where your prayers had these answers? Discuss this together with the class.

How long did Isaac and Rebekah wait for children? (Subtract Isaac's ages in v. 20 and 26)

Have you had to wait for a prayer to be answered? How about your prayers for your future life?

When might God say, "Yes," to a prayer.

When might God's answer be, "No."

Inner Aim It is God's will that we receive earthly blessings and eternal salvation through Jesus.

Passages

James 1:14 - Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires.

1 John 3:15 - Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

What does this mean?

God's good and gracious will is certainly done without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it be done among us also.

How is God's will done?

God's will is done when He breaks and stops every evil will and plan of those who do not want us to hallow His name or let His kingdom come, such as the will of the devil, of the world, and of our own flesh. His will is also done when He gives us strength and keeps us firm in His Word and in faith for as long as we live. This is God's good and gracious will. (Sydow

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Hymn - TLH #418 v. 1, 2, 7, 8

My God, my Father, while I stray
Far from my home on life's rough way,
Oh, teach me from my heart to say,
"Thy will be done."

Renew my will from day to day;
Blend it with Thine and take away
All that now makes it hard to say,
"Thy will be done."

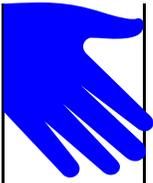
Tho' dark my path and sad my lot,
Let me be still and murmur not
Or breathe the prayer divinely taught,
"Thy will be done."

Then, when on earth I breathe no more,
The prayer, oft mixed with tears before,
I'll sing upon a happier shore,
"Thy will be done."

Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank You for helping us learn the lesson today. Help us to believe and trust that Your will be done. We know it is Your will that all people be saved because of Your Son, Jesus', death on the cross. Help us to spread that saving message to our friends, family and neighbors. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



STORY

Jacob Receives the Blessing - Genesis 25:19-34 and 27:1-40

(Note: this lesson and #10 are so closely connected that the teacher does well to prepare for both simultaneously; some of the Teacher's Notes are interchangeable between the two lessons.)

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Father, my God through the life and work of Jesus, incline Your ear to my prayer. I ask for Your Spirit to enable my mind and heart and tongue to glorify You in my life as a teacher of Your children. Empower Your Word to produce Your will in all of us gathered here below. Enliven the hearts and wills of my students to be thrilled over Your hand in their lives. Amen.

VOCABULARY

seethe pottage = boil lentil soup; lentils belong to the bean (legume) family of vegetables

venison = savory food, broiled or baked meat of wild game such as deer, antelope, pheasant, duck

genealogy = a portion of the family tree showing ancestors and descendants

OUTER AIM

The family tree of Jesus was carried forward through the branch of Jacob.

INNER AIM

God outmaneuvered the "sting operation" of Rebekah and Jacob in order to carry forward His blueprint for the family tree of Jesus' ancestors (from Abraham to Isaac to Jacob to ...).

BACKGROUND

(Rupprecht, Bible History References, Vol. 1, pp. 75-82)

Since our last lesson, Isaac's mother has died, Abraham has remarried (Keturah), has sired a large number of children and grandchildren but has "sent them eastward, away from Isaac his son," and has died. Abraham showed that he was passing on the special blessings to Isaac, and to Isaac alone (even his good son Ishmael was bypassed).

Ch. 25: 19-20

This is the genealogy of Isaac Isaac becomes the focus of the narrative, and we are going to see the hand of God in this chosen person's life as the bridge that will lead to Jesus.

vs. 21-22

Rebekah had been barren for nineteen years of her marriage. What did God have in mind with this tribulation? To bring their concerns to the LORD. A reminder: children are a gift from God; even in our day of "genetic engineering," conception and human life are in God's hands.

v.22

Rebekah could feel the jostling in her womb and she was concerned that something was awry in the way the blessing was arriving. "*If it be so, for what then am I destined?*" (Leupold, p.702)

v.23

There was a cause, of course: she was mothering two separate and distinct forces/futures/ destinies of nations: the *older to serve the younger* was a reversing of the cultural norm; this is important, for in God's kingdom the carnal mind should yield to the spiritual, and in His kingdom the stronger should serve the weaker so as to bring blessings (as Jesus did for us).

vs.24-26

The first twin to emerge was a red, hairy baby (we would call him "Red" or "Harry").

The second baby got a grip on the heel of his twin, and because of this he was called a usurper, a replacer, a "tripper-upper" = the name Jacob. (Isaac was by now sixty years old.)

v.27-28

So the boys grew! Esau, the first born, became a skilled outdoorsman, a toughened survivalist.

The younger twin, Jacob, developed social skills and a sense of the continuity between himself and Abraham and the Promise.

Each parent had a favorite: Dad bonded with tough and hearty Esau; Mom bonded with mild and sensitive Jacob. This was OK, but because Rebekah was concerned for the promised Seed, she was drawn to support God's choice of the younger of her two boys.

vs. 29-34

Esau came with the modest request that Jacob share his supper stew; Jacob took advantage of his brother's vulnerability, and instead of being generous, he was selfish.

Jacob bargained for the special place of "firstborn," which at the time was a big deal (the oldest boy got the farm when Dad died, or the resources to carry on the family tradition and become head of the tribal family). It was a miserable conversation once Jacob got greedy. (Reminder: manipulating people for self is never God-pleasing.)

Esau was cheated because he did not seem to care about carrying on the family tradition. Heb.12:16 calls him a "profane person" who had no interest in a father's special place in God's plans for the tribe and the world.

There was selfishness on both sides, since Isaac should have been willing to help his brother in his bodily need as well as encourage him to appreciate his legacy and inheritance.

(Ch. 26 is skipped, where the LORD required Isaac to stay in Canaan during a famine--with the Promise repeated. Isaac lied about Rebekah being his wife--a sin his father had done with another Abimelech, years earlier. Nonetheless, the LORD blessed Isaac as He had promised.)

Ch. 27:1-40 Which of the twins would be selected as the bridge to the Messiah? Isaac wanted to bless Esau, but Rebekah and Jacob carried out a sting operation in an attempt to "improve on" God's plan and God's methods.

vs. 1-4

Isaac was not heeding God's will when he intended to select the first-born (Esau) for his parting (ultimate) paternal blessing.

vs. 5-10

Rebekah caught the drift that Isaac intended to transfer God's choice away from Jacob. Instead of reminding her husband of God's will, she resorted to deceit/trickery in a misguided attempt to "aid God's hand."

v. 8

She even laid it on Jacob's conscience (as a matter of the 4th commandment) to do as she said; thus she used a selfish "religious" tactic that could produce great spiritual harm.

vs. 11-18

Jacob objected to some of the mechanics and the potential harm when he should have objected to the entire deceitful project. Mother and son collaborated in this conspiracy of deceit.

vs. 19-24

Next came outright bald-faced lying (a subject on which our Lord focuses in James 1:14).

Even when cross-examined, Jacob stuck to his lies including the blasphemous lie that the LORD was behind his claim.

vs. 25-29

When Isaac's justified suspicions had been dispelled, he gave the coveted blessing to Jacob.

In substance, the blessing covered earthly prosperity, ethnic ascendancy, and superiority of his blood line over Esau's. The LORD's support was invoked on the entire blessing but what is apparently missing is any obvious Messianic prophecy.

vs. 30-32

The deception needed to last only a few minutes; Esau's arrival burst the bubble.

vs. 33-35

Here is a scene overcharged with emotion! With trembling Isaac seemed to be catching on that a) his attempt to bypass the LORD's choice of Jacob had backfired on him, and b) that all the double-dealing (with God and with one another) had not only not detoured God's plans for Jacob, but had in fact had accomplished the opposite. These actions had brought calamity to their own household.

vs. 36-40

Although Esau's pleading for a fair portion of blessing from his father (and from the LORD who stood behind Isaac) did not induce Isaac to repudiate Jacob's status (cf. Hebrews 12:17), Isaac did assure Esau of earthly well-being, albeit at the price of subservience to Jacob (until a future day of successful rebellion from Jacob's control).

STUDENT PRAYER

Dear Father, Whom I love and wish to serve, today as I ponder how Your hand protected Jacob even when he did not deserve it, I often puzzle over how I shall survive my mistakes in life. Then I remind myself of how You outmaneuvered the sinful strategies of Isaac, Rebekah, and Jacob. I praise and honor You for Your hand in their lives--and in mine, too. Amen, in Jesus' name.

PRESENTATION (Helps and Hints)

1. The teacher needs to be conversant with sections which were bypassed: Abraham has lost Sarah, married Keturah, and their boys (TEN of their descendants are named!) were sent away as non-participants in the special (ch.25:1-18) lineage of the Messiah; Abraham died; Ishmael's tribe is traced and by-passed, as are Isaac's dealings with Abimelech, ch.26.

2. See Notes for the next lesson also.

Since this lesson covers 55 verses, the teacher will abbreviate the text to suit the class level.

3. Maintain focus on the essentials with an outline such as this:

- I. God produced a promised heir (Jacob) to Isaac; then the other children of Isaac were bypassed from the Messianic family tree.

- II. God blessed Jacob by outmaneuvering human strategies :
 - ▶ Isaac's favoring of Esau was a selfish mistake
 - ▶ Rebekah's trick to favor Jacob was a sinful strategy
 - ▶ Jacob's selfishness made him sin against his father and twin brother III God played along and managed to outmaneuver these human strategies.

4. Combine appropriate and applicable Bible truths and passages during the presentation to emphasize and reinforce the truth that God had a loving hand in Jacob's life.

APPLICATIONS

1. This is God's record of how He manages our affairs even in spite of the mistakes that humans make due to their selfishness. So Isaac and Jacob were hand picked by God, were raised by His hand, and were kept in His hand so that God would be recognized as the Author and Finisher of our salvation.

2. God takes Fatherly care of His erring children, lest we fall victims of our own sinful attitudes, schemes, and manipulations. Yet we receive painful consequences to bear in our interpersonal relationships when we give in to our sinful inclinations.. We become our own worst enemies when we hurt someone else, for we may lose a friend for life. That creates a double loss, for he has lost me, and I have lost him.

3. Recognize greed, selfishness, and ego in your own heart when Satan urges you to think: "But what about ME?" Answer: "Well, what about me? God cares for me, and He is not going to be so cruel as to deprive me of all I need if I just go ahead to be loving, generous, and sharing."

4. In all cases where we have a Word of God to guide and direct us (as Rebekah did), we should be bold to remind ourselves and others of God's Word on the matter. We also need to resist the temptation to resort to human (intellectual or psychological) devices to cause God's will to be done."

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Heb. 11:20 - *By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.*

James 1:14 - *...each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires....*

Middle any of the above and...

I Jn. 3:15 - *Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.*

James 1:13b-15 - *...nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin when it is full-grown, brings forth death.*

Upper any of the above and...

II Cor. 7:10 - *For godly sorrow produces repentance to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death .*

Eph. 2:16 - *...that He might reconcile them both (Jew and Gentile) to God in one body (the Church) through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.*

(Note: Also use Rom. 9:6-16 as background for God's choosing Jacob, but explain the Calvinist error of using this passage to deduce that God hated Esau even before his birth.)

HYMN CHOICES

"Take My Life And Let It Be" (TLH #400 1-6)

"Oh, That the LORD Would Guide My Ways" (TLH #416 1-4)

"My God, My Father, While I Stray" (TLH #418 1-4)