

Isaac, Rebekah and their twins, Esau and Jacob, are not a unified family. God's promise was that the blessing would fall on Jacob, the younger, but they scheme and plot in order to achieve their own desires. The result is a deep family rift with long-lasting consequences. However, God's plan still holds.

Genesis 27:1-46

The Stolen Blessing

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

While seldom are we certain of God's specific plan for our life, we can tend to reach a conclusion that seems like the best, or maybe even most holy route. It's these rare occasions we then want to take matters into our own hands and "assist" God in the timing or manner of seeing things come together the way we would like them to.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

CAN you share of a time when God made "straight" from "crooked" lines in your life?

IS it hard to remember God is sovereign when your circumstances are difficult?

DO you think our dysfunction has any hindrance on God's plans? **EXPLAIN** your response.

HAVE you ever found yourself trying to give God's plan a lift or an assist to help them along?

Genesis 27:1-46 Read Genesis 27:1-46

The Stolen Blessing

OBSERVATION

How is Isaac described as this chapter opens in vs. 1-2?
What plan does Isaac present to Esau and who overhears of it (vs. 2-5)?
How does Rebekah respond to Isaac's plan to blessing Esau (vs. 5-13)?
In vs. 14-25, what observations can you make regarding Jacob's deception and Rebekah's compliance to it?
What do you notice about the blessing Jacob receives in vs. 27-29?
According to vs. 30-36, how does Esau respond to Jacob's deception?
What does Esau ask of his father in vs. 38, and how does Isaac respond?
What does Esau set to do in vs. 41, and how does Rebekah intervene?
What does Rebekah tell Isaac as the chapter closes?

INTERPRETATION

What is the difference between a birthright and a blessing? What does it now mean that Jacob has both?

What role does favoritism play in this family dysfunction? Consider 25:27-28.

Why do you think Isaac gives the blessing in secret, rather than a public ceremony?

How does Rebekah's appeal in vs. 13 and Jacob's in vs. 20 enhance the severity of this sin?

How does God work through the deception, sin, and dysfunction to achieve His purposes? Why is this important to pay attention to?

What does Isaac's blessing on Esau seem to convey? Consider 2 Samuel 8:13 and 2 Kings 8:20-22 to see how this plays out.

Why do you think Rebekah brings up Jacob marrying a Hittite woman, to Isaac specifically, at the end of this section?

How does Jacob's life and character reflect that of Israel's?

APPLICATION

How can you identify and celebrate the accomplishment of God's plans in your life despite your selfish ambition?