

Birth-rights, Blessings and Bad Blood

WRBC Sermon Notes - May 24/20 – Genesis 27

But Isaac said, 'Your brother came deceitfully, and he has taken away your blessing.' Esau said, 'Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has cheated me these two times. He took away my birth-right, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing.' – Genesis 27:35

Keep me from deceitful ways; be gracious to me and teach me your law. – Psalm 119:29

Oh what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive. - Sir Walter Scott

Introduction:

The major theme in Genesis is tracing the seed of Abraham through his sons' right up to the time Israel spent in Egypt. The rest of Scripture picks up the story of this seed and follows it all the way to the birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, the seed of Abraham. But along the way, it appears that the seed is going to get lost, or be mishandled at least. The story we are looking at this morning is one of the most scandalous ones in all of the Bible. It is hard to imagine a more dysfunctional family... and yet God fulfills His promise through them. This is one of the most important lessons we can take from this story; that God is still at work, even in messed-up families.

1. Talk it Through

- Isaac - the senseless one
- Rebekah - the manipulator
- Jacob - the deceiver
- Esau - the careless one

2. Walk it Out

- Doing wrong things in the right way
- Doing right things in the wrong way

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- i. How was Esau like his father, and Jacob like his mother?
- ii. Who do you identify with more in the story, Jacob or Esau? Why?
- iii. When you think about being like your mother or father, what does it make you feel? Have you resisted this, or embraced it? How should your life-story be different than your parents?
- iv. Have you noticed in yourself the capacity to be deceitful? How does this show up?
- v. How does this story in Scripture comfort or encourage you?