

Genesis 27 New American Standard Bible

Jacob's Deception

Now it came about, when Isaac was old and his eyes were too dim to see, that he called his older son Esau and said to him, "My son." And he said to him, "Here I am." ² Then Isaac said, "Behold now, I am old *and* I do not know the day of my death. ³ Now then, please take your gear, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me; ⁴ and prepare a delicious meal for me such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, so that my soul may bless you before I die."

⁵ Now Rebekah was listening while Isaac spoke to his son Esau. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for game to bring *home*, ⁶ Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "Behold, I heard your father speak to your brother Esau, saying, ⁷ 'Bring me *some* game and prepare a delicious meal for me, so that I may eat, and bless you in the presence of the Lord before my death.' ⁸ So now, my son, listen to me as I command you. ⁹ Go now to the flock and bring me two choice young goats from there, so that I may prepare them as a delicious meal for your father, such as he loves.

¹⁰ Then you shall bring *it* to your father that he may eat, so that he may bless you before his death." ¹¹ But Jacob said to his mother Rebekah, "Behold, my brother Esau is a hairy man and I am a smooth man. ¹² Perhaps my father will touch me, then I will be like a deceiver in his sight, and I will bring upon myself a curse and not a blessing." ¹³ But his mother said to him, "Your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get *the goats* for me." ¹⁴ So he went and got *them*, and brought *them* to his mother; and his mother made a delicious meal such as his father loved.

¹⁵ Then Rebekah took the best garments of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on her younger son Jacob. ¹⁶ And she put the skins of the young goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. ¹⁷ She also gave the delicious meal and the bread which she had made to her son Jacob.

¹⁸ Then he came 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 as you told me. Come now, sit and eat of my game, so that you may bless me."

²⁰ Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have *it* so quickly, my son?" And he said, "Because the Lord your God made *it* come to me." ²¹ Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come close, so that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not." ²² So Jacob came close to his father Isaac, and he touched him and said, "The voice is the voice of Jacob, 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 And he said, "Are you really my son Esau?" And he said, "I am."

²⁵ So he said, "Bring *it* to me, and I will eat of my son's game, that I may bless you." And he brought *it* to him, and he ate; he also brought him wine and he drank. ²⁶ Then his father Isaac said to him, "Please come close and kiss me, my son." ²⁷ So he came close and kissed him; and when he smelled the smell of his garments, he blessed him and said, "See, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field which the Lord has blessed; ²⁸ Now may God give you of the dew of heaven, And of the fatness of the earth, And an abundance of grain and new wine; ²⁹ May peoples serve you, And nations bow down to you; Be master of your brothers, And may your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be those who curse you, And blessed be those who bless you."

The Stolen Blessing

³⁰ Now it came about, as soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had hardly gone out from the presence of his father Isaac, that his brother Esau came in from his

hunting. ³¹ Then he also made a delicious meal, and brought it to his father; and he said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that you may bless me." ³² His father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?" And he said, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau." ³³ Then Isaac trembled violently, and said, "Who then was he who hunted game and brought *it* to me, so that I ate from all of *it* before you came, and blessed him? Yes, *and* he shall be blessed." ³⁴ When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, "Bless me, me as well, my father!" ³⁵ And he said, "Your brother came deceitfully and has taken away your blessing." ³⁶ Then *Esau* said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob, for he has betrayed me these two times? He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing." And he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?" ³⁷ But Isaac replied to Esau, "Behold, I have made him your master, and I have given to him all his relatives as servants; and with grain and new wine I have sustained him. What then can I do for you, my son?" ³⁸ Esau said to his father,

"Do you have only one blessing, my father? Bless me, me as well, my father." So Esau raised his voice and wept. ³⁹ Then his father Isaac answered and said to him, Behold, away from the fertility of the earth shall be your dwelling, And away from the dew of heaven from above. ⁴⁰ And by your sword you shall live, And you shall serve your brother; But it shall come about when you become restless, That you will break his yoke from your neck." ⁴¹ So Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him; and Esau said to himself, "The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob." ⁴² Now when the words of her elder son Esau were reported to Rebekah, she sent *word* and called her younger son Jacob, and said to him, "Behold your brother Esau is consoling himself concerning you *by planning* to kill you. ⁴³ Now then, my son, obey my voice, and arise, flee to Haran, to my brother Laban!

⁴⁴ Stay with him a few days, until your brother's fury subsides, ⁴⁵ until your brother's anger against you subsides and he forgets what you did to him. Then I will send *word* and get you from there. Why should I lose you both in one day?" ⁴⁶ And Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am tired of living because of the daughters of Heth; if Jacob takes a wife from the daughters of Heth like these from the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?"

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Pauls observations and insights

1. Why do we have to wear out and grow old?
2. 'My son' said Isaac to, and Esau replies 'here I am'.
3. God calls you 'my Son'. Obedience requires us to respond with 'here I am'.
4. Would you like to know your death day?
5. Isaac requests his favourite food from his son Isaac, before he dies.
6. Isaac, having been blessed by his son with food, is preparing to pass on the first born, family blessing.
7. Do you bless your children each day?
8. Rebecca, in her deception, listened in on the conversation for the purpose of protecting her own son, Jacob.
9. Is it ever right to have favourites in a family?
10. Rebecca acts in this way and steals Isaac's blessing.

11. She deceives Isaac by preparing the food for Jacob so that he can deceive his father - because everyone knows the way to a man's heart is through his stomach.
12. Jacob is unsure about his part in the deception, he fears a curse over a blessing, he makes excuses to his mum, 'Esau is a hairy man and I am smooth', but he still listens to her.
13. Rebecca, in her explanation to Jacob, is willing to take on the curse if it comes through this deception.
14. The nature of deception is rooted in this family, it has been seen before and is seen again later.
15. Who else listened to a woman in the bible who got everyone in trouble?
16. Was God condoning this plan of Rebecca's to deceive Isaac out of his family blessing?
17. 'Father', says Jacob, 'who are you my son' says Isaac, as he did not know the voice of the one speaking.
18. Jacob responds 'Esau'. Isaac smelt a rat but allows himself still to be deceived, why?
19. Jacob goes through the voice test, the hairy test and the smell test - and then receives the elder son blessing.
20. Isaac having asked outright 'are you my son Esau?' Jacob replies 'I am', but this is a blatant lie.
21. Why do we lie?
22. Jacob gets Esau's eldest son blessing, favour, provision, protection, security, well-being, positioning, privilege, authority over his enemies.
23. The scene is set again – take two – Esau returns having caught the beast and prepared the food for his father in anticipation of the eldest son's blessing. Whoops, wrong son.
24. Isaac having blessed Jacob had convinced himself Jacob was really Esau. So he asks Esau 'who are you my son?'
25. Realising what had happened Isaac begins to tremble violently. What does this mean?
26. Isaac tries to pacify Esau, but it is all too late, the first born blessing has been given!
27. Esau cries out with a bitter cry. What is a bitter cry?
28. Isaac can only bless Esau with crumbs.
29. Esau acknowledges within himself that Jacob is the supplanter, the deceiver, 'he stole my birth right and now he has deceived me from my blessing.'
30. The truth was Esau is a man driven by his appetite, he lost his birth right because of food!
31. Having blessed and spoken the word it can't be taken back.
32. Isaac says to Esau 'but out of pity he blesses his son' which is more like a curse than a blessing.
33. A root of bitterness came upon Esau towards Jacob.
34. He made plans to kill Jacob after the death of his father.
35. Rebecca gets to hear about it and so she sends Jacob away, she says 'listen to me.'
36. 'Mum, I listened to you before and look what happened! You want me to listen to you again?'
37. She sends him off to her brother Laban, he will be at home there as Laban too was a deceiver!
38. Rebecca hoped that Esau would calm down and forget Jacob's deeds of deception.
39. But time doesn't heal it only distances you from the experience, the pain is still just as real unless you bring closure to it. Rebecca's plan was to get Jacob a wife from her own people.