

Exposition of the Book of Genesis



Parental Favoritism and a Life-Changing Vision

January 18, 2011

Text: Genesis 27:1-28:22

Summary Statement



z Jacob schemes to obtain by deception that which was already his.

Man's sin can...



**Z...never frustrate the
sovereign will of
God... but it can be
used to fulfill it.**

The sins of Isaac...



Z... Rebekah, Esau and Jacob did not thwart God's plans in anyway. What He promised was indeed fulfilled.

Proverbs 16:9



z The mind of man
plans his way, but
the LORD directs his
steps

Isaac's House



Z...was a chaotic mess. When we take a look at what went on, we see *dueling*, *disconnected parents*, *sibling rivalry* and a total *absence of relationship*.

When parents...



z...play favorites with their children, they start down a slippery slope that may lead to ultimate destruction of themselves and their children.

Act 1



**z The Conspiracy of
Isaac and Esau**

z (27:1--4)

Observation



z There was an urgency to Isaac's desire to convey the blessing to Esau. He focused on his appetite

The Urgency



zIsaac perceived that
he was close to death
and he wanted to
convey the blessing
before he died

The Secrecy



z Normally the blessing would be pronounced in front of the whole family, but Isaac was conspiring privately with Esau.

Conspiracy



z Conspiracy and secrecy go hand in hand. The plan seemed to be to exclude Jacob all together.

Conclusion



zIsaac had to know about
**God's plan for Jacob and
this had to be a
deliberate attempt at
circumventing the will of
God. (Genesis 25:23)**

Either by a...



- z ...genuine or a contrived sense of urgency Isaac sought to secretly overturn God's revealed will and Jacob's rightful possession by a clandestine conveyance of an oral blessing. By his willful participation Esau disregarded the legal agreement he had made with his brother.**

In both instances...



Z ...a dinner provided the occasion for such deception. To sit at the table of Abraham (and even Lot) was to be afforded hospitality and protection, but to sit at the table with Isaac and his sons was to face the dangers of deception and false dealing.

Act 2



**zThe Counter-
Conspiracy of
Rebekah and Jacob
(27:5-17)**

Isaac's Deception



z Isaac sought to further his own interests by means of cunning and deceit. God's method of dealing with this was to give Isaac a wife who was far more skillful at manipulation than he. What a master of deceit this woman was.

Why Did Jacob Do It?



- z Pressured by his mother**
- z He wanted the blessing**
- z The end justified the means**
- z He did not respect his father**

Act 3



z Isaac Believes the
Big Lie
z (27:18-29)

Isaac was deceived...



Z...by his youngest son because he chose to trust his senses rather than trust God. His intent was to deceive Jacob.

Act 4



z Isaac Learns and
Esau Burns
z (27:30-40)

Act 5



z Rebekah and Jacob
have a price to Pay
z (27:41-45)

Because of their...



...deception, Jacob was forced to *flee the wrath of his brother* and Rebekah, his mother, was forced to *live with having instigated a blood feud between her two children.*

One final word...



...must be said about the matter of Christian ethics. Jacob was guilty of practicing situational ethics. He considered the plan of his mother from the vantage point of practicality but not from the biblical perspective of principle.

He worried about...



...whether the plan would work but not if it was right. He agonized over the consequences of the plan if it failed but not the morality of such a plan in the first place.

Chapter 28



Jacob's Farewell and Esau's Frustration (27:46-28:9)

The message in this...



**z...passage is this...Oh
what a tangled web we
weave when first we
practice to deceive.**

Chapter 28

**z Jacob's Departure
and Jacob's Dream
z (28:10-17)**

Isaac was deceived...



**Z...by his youngest son
because he chose to
trust his senses rather
than trust God.**

Chapter 28

z Jacob's Declaration (28:18-21)

Jacob...



z...set up a pillar (18-19)

z...made a profession of faith (20-21)

z...made a promise (22)