

Genesis

Chapter 26:34 – 27:39

Let's get started in this weeks study. We will be starting at the last two verses of chapter 26 and then get into chapter 27.

✎ **Gen 26:34-35** *34 When Esau was forty years old, he took as wives Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite. 35 And they were a grief of mind to Isaac and Rebekah.*

So who were these Hittite's and why were Isaac and Rebekah so against Esau marrying their daughters?

The Hittite's were descendants of Canaan.

† **Gen 10:15-17** *Canaan begot Sidon his firstborn, and Heth; the Jebusite, the Amorite, and the Girgashite; the Hivite, the Arkite, and the Sinite;*

And Canaan was the son of Ham who was Noah's son. Remember the one who exposed his nakedness and Noah cursed his son Canaan.

† **Gen 9:22** *And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside.*

† **Gen 9:24-25** *So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him. Then he said: "Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants He shall be to his brethren."*

So why was this marriage so bad?

First off, we notice that Esau took two wives, as we learned was not the right thing to do. Second, it was very important for the descendants of Abraham to marry within their own family. So important, that when Abraham instructed his servant to find a wife for Isaac He made his instructions very clear.

† **Gen 24:3-4** *3 "and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell; 4 "but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac."*

And as rebellious as Esau was, he didn't follow the teaching of his grandfather Abraham or his father Isaac. He really didn't care about his family or what they thought. We know this because a few weeks ago we read of Esau selling his birthright to his brother Jacob for a bowl of soup.

There always seem to be the black sheep of the family, and maybe you are, or were one

yourself. But if you are, then do not fear, because Jesus can change all of that and make you white as snow.

† *Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together,"
Says the LORD,
"Though your sins are like scarlet,
They shall be as white as snow;
Though they are red like crimson,
They shall be as wool.*

The same thing could have happened for Esau, but he chose to be rebellious all his life and refused to serve or even acknowledge God in his life.

Have you been denying God lately? Maybe not when we celebrated Easter. It seems when any religious holiday, like Easter or Christmas comes around, a lot of people become religious. They are open to talk about God and even mention the name of Jesus without using His name in vain or as a curse word.

But the week following Easter, things will be back to normal for a lot of people. They'll forget about God and Jesus and go back to their old life style.

Some Christians do the same thing also, they'll put on the Christian personality for a short time, but after it's all over, they go back to ignoring God and living for themselves.

Maybe this is hitting home with you right now, and you are either getting angry at these words, or the Lord is opening your eyes and you have a heart to repent and start really being a witness for Jesus Christ.

† *Mark 7:6-9 & 20-23 He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'*

"For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men--the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do." He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition."

And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man."

"So what do I do?" you may be thinking.

I would encourage you to truly seek the Lord with all your heart, confess your sins to Him and ask Him to fill you with His Holy Spirit so that you can be a witness for Him!

Esau didn't do this, but rebelled against his family. Maybe one (or more) of your children are like this. You can preach to them until you are blue in the face, but I would encourage you to just love them and pray for them everyday. I know it worked for me when I was rebellious.

✚ Gen 27:2-4 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."

"Wait, wait, wait a minute. I thought we just read that Esau was rebellious and made his family unhappy with his marriage to the Hittite women. So what is going on here? I thought Isaac and Rebekah were mad at Esau for marrying those Canaanite women?"

This is what we would call today a dysfunctional family. Isaac loved Esau but Rebekah loved Jacob. There was favoritism in the family. They didn't treat their children the same. Isaac treated Esau better than Jacob and Rebekah treated Jacob better than Esau. When you do this sort of thing, you can be blinded to what you are actually doing, as it seems Isaac was.

Another thing that was going on was; it was the custom to bless your children before you died. And that is what Isaac was doing here, giving his blessing to his first-born Esau. But we will find out that the agreement that Esau made of selling his birthright to Jacob will come to pass.

Both Esau and Jacob were deceptive men. Jacob deceived Esau with a bowl of soup, and here Esau is trying to go back on his promise or agreement of selling his birthright to Jacob by doing what his father Isaac said and getting the blessing.

One note before we go on. Isaac is about 140 years old at this time. I'll tell you why this is important to remember in a while.

✚ Gen 27:5-10 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."

When I read this story, I have to wonder if Isaac and Rebekah knew about the incident of Esau selling his birthright to Jacob? Also, what kind of a family is this. How could wonderful, beautiful Rebekah deceive her son Esau, but even worse her husband Isaac? Let's read Jacob's response.

✎ ***Gen 27:11-12 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."***

Notice that Jacob didn't say, "*No mother, this belongs to Esau, I will not deceive my father.*" No, he was wondering how they could pull this off without getting caught.

Sometimes we are asked if something is a sin or not. Here is a good example of testing your motives for what you are doing and whether it's a sin or not.

If you are trying to find a way to do something without getting caught or trying to find a good excuse for doing it, then it's very likely to be a sin.

If you really want to know right from wrong, then seek the Lord and His word. That is a mark of a true believer. Not trying to manipulate to get or do something, but rather asking God and searching His word to find out the truth. Because no matter how good it may seem to be, if it's not OK with God, then the end is disappointment and failure of not doing God's will.

Let's see what Rebekah's response to her son is.

✎ ***Gen 27:13 But his mother said to him, "Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me."***

Wow, those are pretty strong words.

Rebekah is saying in a sense, "*Just listen to what I tell you to do, and if you get caught then I will take all the blame.*" Some would say these are the loving words of a mother to her child.

First off these were not young teenagers, in fact they were about 80 years old. (Isaac was 60 when they were born and here Isaac is around 140.)

Second a loving mother would not want to teach her son to be deceptive against his father or anyone else.

So the deception takes place.

✎ ***Gen 27:14-17 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.

Esau must have been really hairy if Rebekah had to put the skins of a goat on his hands and neck. If you ever had been to a petting zoo then you know how thick and rough the hair of a goat is. It's nothing like a dog or a cats fur.

If Isaac was losing his eyesight and going blind, why did they need to Esau's clothes on Jacob? It's a smell thing. Jacob not only needed to feel like Esau, but also smell like him, that's where the clothes come into play.

✎ *Gen 27:18 So he went to his father and said, "My father.' And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?"*

I bet Jacob was shaking in his sandals at this question, "Who are you?" But Jacob kept his cool as a con artist would.

✎ *Gen 27:19-20 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."*

Jacob not only lied to his father, but now he was bringing God into it. ***"Because the LORD your God brought it to me."***

If you've forgotten, Jacob (but we haven't come to that part in Genesis yet) was renamed Israel by God. That's right, the same Jacob that we now know as the country of Israel. The same Jacob whom the twelve tribes Israel came from. The same Israel who they say, *"The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."*

I mention this because some still wonder if God can forgive them for what they have done. As you are reading through this story of Jacob, remember that God forgave him and He will forgive you too.

But also as we read on, by the end of the chapter we will see the consequences of his sin. That's all I will say, you'll have you wait till we get there, or read ahead in your bible.

✎ *Gen 27:21-23 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.*

Now I know Jacob is scared to death. Isaac knew the voices of his sons. And he knew this was the voice of Jacob not Isaac. (I guess they didn't plan for everything in their scheme.) But we also learned that Isaac was a humble and trusting man. He would never believe that his own son(s) would deceive him. So even though the voice belonged to Jacob, the

feel was of Esau.

What about the smell test?

*✚ Gen 27:24-27 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.*

Doubt was here on Isaac's part. After all, he wanted to make sure he blessed the right son. So the second test was the smell test which Jacob also past.

He also asked Jacob a second time if he was really Esau. And once again Jacob lied and said that he was Esau.

*✚ Gen 27:27-29 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!"*

You are "numero uno". Your brothers will bow down to you, and may you possess all the blessings that God will give you. These are the blessing to a first-born son. These are the blessing that Esau sold for a bowl of soup.

Are you selling your blessing for a bowl of soup?

What is so important that you think you need or want to have that you are willing to risk God's blessings?

What about your family, your husband or wife and children? Are you willing to lose it all for a fling with another man or woman?

"Yea but I'm not happy at home. You don't know how much I hate my husband (or wife). God wouldn't want me to be unhappy right? And if I'm unhappy in my marriage then I

should leave to be happy."

Wrong, wrong, WRONG. You need to trust in the Lord for your marriage. You just can't walk away every time something doesn't go your way or because you think you are unhappy. Usually someone is unhappy because they think things are better with someone or even something else. I know this all too well from personal experience. And I want to stop you before you make one of the biggest mistakes in your life. God loves you and your spouse. God wants your marriage to work out and it will if you seek God CONTINUALLY!

What other blessing are you willing to give up for a bowl of soup? What about your job or home? You may be unhappy there, but you must also remember that God is the one who allowed you to get that job in the first place. He gave you the skills and knowledge to do your job. If He wants you to leave then He will supply something else. But if not, then God may want you there to be a witness for His Son Jesus Christ.

Some times we think that we would be better off serving the Lord full time in a ministry that would take us out of the work force.

"Things would be so much better if only I could do _____ for the Lord instead of having to come to this stupid job everyday."

Do you feel like this? Are you a witness at work? If no, then why not? God has given you a ministry right there at work, and you get paid for it too!

Maybe you like your job but you like to borrow things or taking things from work. First off this is stealing. Plus you can also lose your job because of it. Once again, it's a bowl of soup instead of God's blessings.

I think you are getting the idea now. So this week stop and look at what you are doing and the things you are unhappy with. Then ask God, *"Am I looking for a bowl of soup when you want to give me so much more?"*

Next week we will find out what happens when Esau returns for his blessing. Have a great week.

May the Lord richly bless you in all that you do for His glory!