

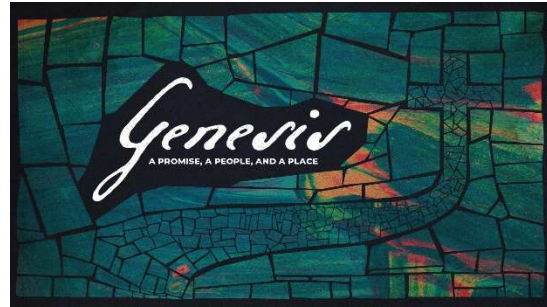
Sermon Discussion Guide

Date: March 17, 2024

Text: Genesis 27:1 – 28:9

Preacher: Jim

Link to Sermon: [Click Here](#)



SUMMARY

Big Idea: God's Good Intentions for Us Cannot be Thwarted Despite Our Sinful Choices

God has determined to bring blessing (salvation) to all the families of the earth through Abraham's seed. We have seen that covenant promise pass on to Isaac, and in our passage today, it will go to Jacob. God had already spoken through prophetic promise to Rebekah that Jacob would receive the blessing instead of Esau (25:23.) How would God bring this about? The same way he always brings about his promises - though the sinful choices of mankind. In the end, God is the only hero and all the characters in the story, like us, prove to be weak vessels in need of His sovereign grace to bless us, the undeserving.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Opener

Have you ever played the game, "Two truths and a lie"? Someone in the group can surely explain the game, and you're welcome to play a quick round. I never understood the purpose of that game, except to try to master the art of deception and trick your friends. It's a game that trains us to be like Jacob, whose name means "deceiver."

Jacob is not the only one who fails in our passage. All 4 of the main characters (Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, Esau) each are at odds with the covenant promises of God in different ways. We'll look at each of them, with application to our own hearts.

1. **Isaac (Read 27:1-4)**

- a. Knowing God's promise in 25:23, what do Isaac's proposed actions reveal about his relationship to God's covenant promises? (also 25:28)
 - i. Isaac elevates his palate over God's promises, in effect saying "I don't really care what God says, I'll follow my own heart, feelings, and desires."
 - ii. Where do you fall into the same mindset?

2. **Rebekah (Read 27:5-13)**

- a. Likewise knowing God's promise in 25:23, what do Rebekah's actions reveal about her understanding of God and His promises?
 - i. Rebekah believes in a weak/helpless God who cannot deliver, one who needs our coercion and manipulation. She pursues "holy ends", but through "unholy means."
- b. Where are you prone to force or manipulate to bring about even "good" things.

3. **Jacob (Read 27:14-29)**

- a. Similar to Rebekah, what do Jacob's actions reveal about his relationship to God's promises?
 - i. What role does Rebekah's words in 27:13 play?
 - ii. "Free from consequences" - how has that been a deceptive motivator for you?

4. **Esau (Read 27:30-41)**

- a. Is Esau gripped by regret or repentance? How does 25:34 and Hebrews 12:15-17 relate?
- b. What's the difference between worldly and Godly sorrow? (2 Cor 7:10) How can you tell the difference in others, or in yourself?

5. **Read 27:42 - 28:9.** Do these verses bring a conclusion or add more tension?

6. Where is there HOPE in this passage? (as a whole, 27:1 - 28:9)