



JACOB—FROM BROKENNESS TO BLESSING PART 2, THE STOLEN BLESSING

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Pastor Keith Jenkins

BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

*"Revelation
doesn't always
bring relief
from suffering
but it does confirm
to you that God
is in control.
That becomes an
anchor to your soul."*

-Pastor Keith

TEXT(S):

"The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So, she went to inquire of the Lord. The Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger." When the time came for her to give birth, there were indeed twin boys in her womb. (Genesis 25:22-24)

"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." Then he said, "Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death. Now therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me. And make me savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, that my soul (ed., with his entire being) may bless you before I die."

Now Rebekah was listening as Isaac spoke to his son Esau. When Esau left for the open country to hunt game and bring it back, Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "Look, I overheard your father say to your brother Esau, 'Bring me some game and prepare me some tasty food to eat, so that I may give you my blessing in the presence of the Lord before I die.' Now, my son, listen carefully and do what I tell you: Go out to the flock and bring me two choice young goats, so I can prepare some tasty food for your father, just the way he likes it. Then take it to your father to eat, so that he may give you his blessing before he dies."

Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "But my brother Esau is a hairy man while I have smooth skin. What if my father touches me? I would appear to be tricking him and would bring down a curse on myself rather than a blessing." (Genesis 27:1-12)

MESSAGE SUMMARY

God does not hide the frailty and brokenness of the people He uses to accomplish His purposes. Jacob is a good example. His family is bound up with deception, immorality, and betrayal. That gives us great hope as we consider our own brokenness. We all have issues that keep us up at night. We have needs. It's universal, but God is faithful to meet the needs of His people. It's not a quid pro quo where we do right and He *then* is faithful. He is always dependable and faithful.

That doesn't mean He always works things out in ways that are more comfortable to us. The story of Jacob's stolen blessing illustrates that a faithful God does not promise us ease, but He does keep the promises He makes. Jacob begins life as a miracle, a child of promise. While he enjoys his mother's affection, his father, Isaac, loves Esau more. The brothers split the love of their parents. As Isaac is preparing to die, he decides to bless his older son Esau. He wants to do this quietly, between the two of them. He purposely tries to side step God's prophetic declaration over Jacob. (Gen. 25:22-24) Rebecca joins in the deception by tricking Isaac into blessing Jacob instead. The entire family becomes snared in a web of deception, all to bring something about that God had already promised. How often do we do the same?

We cannot lay aside righteousness, in pursuit of righteous gains. Nor can we receive God's blessings with joy and peace apart from surrender. Even so, the Lord keeps His word despite the unbelief and unfaithfulness of His people. If we don't believe that, desperation will cause us to act rashly, disregarding wisdom, character and uncompromising morality. Jacob deceived and compromised for what he already possessed as a promise from God. The better alternative? Wait on the Lord.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker's message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.

LEAN IN

These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. What stood out to you in Sunday's sermon? Why was it significant to you?
2. How do you relate to Jacob's circumstances?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions on the passage and observations about what's been read.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What moved Rebecca to inquire of the Lord? How do you think she may have reacted to God's response?
2. What do you observe about Isaac's initiative beginning in Genesis 27? What does his sense of desperation lead him to do?
3. What do you observe about Rebecca and Jacob's interaction? How do you relate to their plans, if you do?
4. What do the opposing plans within the family tell you about Isaac, Rebecca, and their children?
5. Where do you see yourself and/or your family in the story?

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. How does a lack of confidence in God's faithfulness impact our world?
2. Where do you observe unbelief and self-protective scheming at work? What does that look like?
3. Why do you think most people have such highly developed self-protective instincts?
4. Is there something beyond self-preservation and self-promotion at work? Are there spiritual forces at involved? If so, where, and how, do you see them operating?
5. Can you think of a contemporary example where the family dynamics feel like what we read in Genesis 27?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. How have you "inquired of the Lord", and where have you received revelation about God's promises to you? *Hint: Scripture is always our guide to determine this.*
2. Can you think of a time where you tried to manipulate circumstances to bring about something you believed God was doing in and/or through you?
3. What's it look like for you to "wait on God"? Is it active? Passive?
4. What do you believe that you already possess from God even if you haven't received it yet? Describe how do you feel about that; Are you discouraged, excited, or...?
5. What keeps you from trusting God completely?

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.

Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. How can we avoid acting rashly to grasp something God has not given us yet?
2. What are some helpful spiritual practices that can help us inquire of the Lord and wait on Him?

**DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS,
CONT.**