

# GENESIS 27:30-46

## THE AFTERMATH OF THE SAGA

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We have been using the television show Dallas as an analogy of this drama in Genesis 27. Well, it didn't end last week. You had to tune in for another episode and here we are, the saga continues.

We left off last week with Jacob being blessed by his father after having tricked his father into giving him the blessing instead of Esau his older brother. Today, when we pick up in verse 30 we see that Esau has returned from the hunt and has brought his father a bowl of his favorite stew. Now the drama escalates.

**Gen 27:30** *Now it happened, as soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting.*

**Gen 27:31** *He also had made savory food, and brought it to his father, and said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that your soul may bless me."*

**Gen 27:32** *And his father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?" So he said, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau."*

**Gen 27:33** *Then Isaac trembled exceedingly, and said, "Who? Where is the one who hunted game and brought it to me? I ate all of it before you came, and I have blessed him—and indeed he shall be blessed."*

It has been said that your lies shall find you out. That bears true here.

If you recall, this whole fiasco started with Isaac wanting some venison and asked his oldest son to kill some game so he could eat. In return, Isaac would bless Esau. What we may not have seen however, was that

this whole scheme was to be pulled off in private. Though the eldest son was normally the one to get the blessing, the actual blessing itself was normally given at a large feast. In this instance stealth was employed.

We can't view this as some honest mistake on Isaac's part either. He knows what God said to Rebekah. He is aware of which son is to get the blessing, but his personal feeling for Esau have clouded his judgment. Perhaps he can't see why Jacob should be the one to receive the blessing. Maybe it doesn't make any sense to him. In Isaac's mind, Jacob probably isn't man enough to carry out the will of God. But God uses the weak to confound the strong. We also see that God doesn't lean on the arm of the flesh to accomplish His will. And though it seems that His (God's) will is being circumvented, God is right in the thick if things. He will show Himself in a powerful way, as we shall soon see.

Everyone has a bad part to play in this drama. At this point in history, this family is totally dysfunctional. This doesn't speak well for Isaac's spiritual leadership of the family.

You have to wonder just how long Jacob and Rebekah thought that they could get away with this charade. This just goes to show how the human heart works. When it sees something it really wants, it will do whatever it takes to get it. This may even be worse since Rebekah justified her actions by trying to fulfill the plan of God.

Once again, the end doesn't justify the means. If we would remember this we would get in a lot less trouble.

If we are honest, we have to admit that there are very few occasions when we have a true motive. We may think we do, but we really don't.

***Jer 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?"***

***Jer 17:10 I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.***

Once again we judge ourselves by looking at others and that isn't a viable standard. When we compare our motives to those of the living God, only then can we see where we really stand.

At any rate the lie was found out when Esau returned from the field. Isaac is the first to realize what has happened. It is important that we see his reaction. In verse 33 he says that he had already blessed Esau, and then he paused.... and said "Indeed he...shall...be...blessed."

The pause is important. I believe that it was at this time that he realized that though he had been tricked, he had actually blessed the right son. It was at this time that he remembered what the Angel told Rebekah just before she gave birth. This revelation came during the "great shaking" of Isaac. This is where God comes into the scene, though we don't read of it.

Sometimes God has to shake us to get our attention. There are many things that can snap us out of our rebellion and apathy, but nothing compares with God shaking a man's heart.

It was actually a moment of clarity for Isaac. He was no longer blinded by his love for the athlete/ hunter/ fisherman. Now he could once again see the plan of God, and that was the most important thing.

Though this episode is distasteful, at the very least, this section stands out and shines if we are careful not to read over it. This is a spiritual reboot, as it were. Isaac now concedes his own will to that of God's.

What caused Isaac to tremble was the revelation that he had attempted to box with God and lost. Isaac planned to handover the keys to Esau. There was no way he would let the power go to that sniveling sissy,

Jacob. There was no way he would bend to the will of his meddling wife either. But Isaac had failed to account for the “God factor.” That thing by which God can take any situation, no matter how bad we may hose it up and still accomplish His will.

It’s like Johnny Cash sang, “You can run on for a long time, but sooner or later God will cut you down.”

And though Isaac had a moment of clarity, Esau had a rude awakening. Reality had just hit him between the eyes.

**Gen 27:34** *When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, "Bless me—me also, O my father!"*

**Gen 27:35** *But he said, "Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing."*

**Gen 27:36** *And Esau said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing!" And he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?"*

**Gen 27:37** *Then Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Indeed I have made him your master, and all his brethren I have given to him as servants; with grain and wine I have sustained him. What shall I do now for you, my son?"*

**Gen 27:38** *And Esau said to his father, "Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me—me also, O my father!" And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.*

**Gen 27:39** *Then Isaac his father answered and said to him: "Behold, your dwelling shall be of the fatness of the earth, And of the dew of heaven from above.*

**Gen 27:40** *By your sword you shall live, And you shall serve your brother; And it shall come to pass, when you become restless, That you shall break his yoke from your neck."*

**Gen 27:41** *So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, "The days of*

*mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob."*

We may, at first, want to empathize with Esau. After all, he was cheated. However, that shouldn't be our response. We aren't told to empathize or even sympathize with him. We are however, told that we are to learn from him. (Heb. 12:15-17) We are to learn that though God is merciful in His dealing with us, there are choices that cannot be undone and consequences that are unavoidable.

Tears mean nothing, Esau cried out of frustrated selfishness. He was sorry for the consequences of his actions, not his sin or its motive.

The flesh is a poor substitute for the life God wants for us. Several times already in Genesis we have seen a stark contrast between sons raised in the same family. One seems to be more spiritual than the other. Even in this case where Jacob is involved in a lie - he was coaxed by his mother. Even though he went along with the ruse it is easy to see that he has more of an eye for the things of God than his brother.

Esau cared nothing for spiritual matters. In his short-sided way of thinking he didn't have to think of such things. He was what some falsely refer to as a self-made man. He was self-sufficient. He didn't need anyone else. He could hunt and kill food. He could grow food. If anyone got in his way he could, by way of brute force get them out of the way. Therefore he was all that he needed. Even without his father's blessing he could make it.

By looking at his reaction to everything we can also see that when he had time to think things over and see that he had actually sold himself out some time ago, in his eyes it was his brother's fault.

When reality hits, it is time for a reality check. Esau never did this. He passed the buck, got angry and plotted revenge. When his pride was

hurt, murder rose up in his heart. His one concern was himself so he asked his father for another blessing and he got one.

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At first, verse 39 sounds like the same blessing Jacob got, but it isn't. Esau and his descendants would make their living from the ground, but you don't hear of any bounty in the harvest or of much grain and wine like you heard regarding Jacob. Verse 40 states that Esau and his descendants would live by the sword and be restless due to the fact that they would be under the yoke of Jacob.

Living by the sword is still common today. People live by their temper and their wits. They intimidate, fuss and fight to get their way. Then they wonder why they don't have a moment's peace. When I hear that phrase... living by the sword... I usually think of some mob boss. They often killed their boss in order to be the boss so they live in constant paranoia and fear that they will now be killed.

The flesh lives by the sword. It is in constant fear and anger, never knowing any peace. At best there is only a temporary escape through drugs and alcohol or some other vice.

Historically speaking Esau's people were conquered by King Saul, the first King of Israel, subjugated by King David and then rebelled under King Solomon. The rebellion was quickly quashed however. This cycle continued throughout the OT.

So Esau hated his brother and vowed to kill him, but not until his father died.

Rebekah got wind of this and sent her favorite son away to live with her family up north.

**Gen 27:42** *And the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said to him, "Surely your brother Esau comforts himself concerning you by intending to kill you.*

**Gen 27:43** *Now therefore, my son, obey my voice: arise, flee to my brother Laban in Haran.*

**Gen 27:44** *And stay with him a few days, until your brother's fury turns away,*

**Gen 27:45** *until your brother's anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him; then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereaved also of you both in one day?"*

**Gen 27:46** *And Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth; if Jacob takes a wife of the daughters of Heth, like these who are the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?"*

If you remember, when Jacob asked his mother about the consequences for their actions in this whole plot, she basically said, "Forget about it. You let me worry about that."

Now he has to leave home in fear for his life while his mother stays at South Fork. Rebekah has now lost her son, (in a sense) due to her actions. The son on whom she doted will no longer be with her on a daily basis. Everyone has lost something here.

The blessing that was spoken over Jacob stated that he would be "lord" over his brothers and that his mother's sons would bow to him. However, before Esau calls him lord, Jacob will salute him in chapters 32 and 33. And before Esau ever bows to Jacob, it will be Jacob that bows low before Esau. The path of sin and the price paid for sin is never worth it.

Don't be dragged into someone else's bad plan, even if it can benefit you. This is how the devil works. He offers you a kickback in order to lure you into his plot and then you have to run for your life while he sits back and counts his money.

I am not equating Rebekah with the devil; he used her. He simply exploited what was already in their hearts; those things being anxiety, greed, pride and most of all a lack of faith. Satan exploited weaknesses, character flaws in people that were actually on the right side of the fence. These were spiritual people that were in tune with God's plan. They simply got ahead of God and tried to make His will come true. Instead of being actors on the stage they tried to become the producer and director. Now Isaac is running for his life and Rebekah has split up her home.

We can get ahead of God also. WE can manipulate relationships and job offers. We can kill ourselves trying to land the beautiful woman even when she isn't the one God wants for us. That also works in reverse.

When you look at Hebrews 11 and all those listed there, you will see that Isaac, the man willing to succumb to sacrifice, only has a couple of lines. He is almost an afterthought. Yet he still made it into the Hall of Faith because after his shaking he acquiesced, in faith to the will of God.

Are you surrendered to God? Has your own selfish will been broken? Before any act of grace, there has to be an internal earthquake in our hearts. Before we can repent there has to be a moment of honesty and clarity. There has to be a moment in which we accurately see our situation. We have to see our sin as God sees it or else there can be no true repentance. If we don't see things that way then even if we cry tears like Esau, as Hebrews says, there is no repentance found.



Don't get ahead of God. Search for His will in your life and stick to His plan. The alternative is a life script like the dramas on television.