

In the Beginning...

An Exploration of Genesis

SERMON NOTES

Week 4 May 5, 2024

“A Father’s Blessing”

Genesis 25:29-34, 27:21-29, 28:12-15, 33:1-3;
Deuteronomy 6:5, 7, 9

I. The Twins: Jacob and Esau

A. Isaac and Rebecca had twin boys named Esau and _____.

B. We need to affirm the _____ of our children.

II. Birthrights and a Bowl of Stew

A. Esau gives up his _____ to Jacob for a bowl of stew.

B. We need to teach our children the importance of planning for the _____ as opposed to instantaneous gratification.

C. We need to teach our children to not take _____ of others just because they can.

III. The Blessing

A. Jacob deceives Isaac into giving him the blessing meant for _____.

B. _____ we say to our children can be a blessing or a curse.

C. We need to pass on our _____ to our children

IV. Jacob’s Ladder and the Reunion with Esau

A. Jacob has an encounter with _____ that changes his life.

B. We need to demonstrate for our children that we are _____ to be a blessing.

C. Esau _____ Jacob and they reconnected.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *May 6-11, 2024*

INTRODUCTION

Abraham's son Isaac had two boys named Esau and Jacob. Jacob's name means "trickster" or "heel catcher," and he lived up to his name. Once again, while Jacob is highly esteemed, upon closer inspection we see that he is also human and imperfect. But God uses the imperfect, just like us. The story of Jacob and Esau teaches us several lessons regarding family relationships.

Monday: Genesis 25:19-26

These Hebrew stories omit so much we'd like to know. It's clear, however, that Isaac and Rebekah turned to God with their concerns, and found divine guidance and help. Have you made it a central part of your life to "inquire of the Lord"? Do you have mentors or models who help you know how to do that?

Tuesday: Genesis 25:27-34

Jacob was "sharp," in all of the positive and negative senses that term can carry. What do you learn about yourself through your responses to this story? Are you more apt to admire Jacob or to deplore the way he treated Esau? With which qualities in each of the brothers do you most identify?

Wednesday: Genesis 26:34 – 27:29

Usually, a father called all his sons around his deathbed, and blessed each one (see Genesis 49). Isaac was not just a naive victim - he tried to bypass Jacob. Do you believe God could have worked in this situation without Rebekah's deceit or not? How do you decide when to wait and trust God and when you need to act?

Thursday: Genesis 27:30-41

Isaac and Jacob's culture may have been a little "over the top" on the permanent nature of words. We, on the other hand, are probably too casual about that (see James 3:2-11). When have you wished you could take back words that were irretrievably gone? When have "just words" uplifted and blessed you?

Friday: Genesis 27:42 – 28:22

Genesis says that when Jacob awoke, he said, "Surely the Lord God is in this place, and I was not aware of it." Have you ever had a moment like that - an uncanny sense that "God is in this place, this person, this event - and I had missed it"? How can you become more aware of God's presence in your life?

MOVING FORWARD

For parents, the story of Jacob and Esau shows us the importance of affirming the uniqueness of our children, that our words may be a blessing or a curse, and the importance of passing down our faith. The story also reminds us that we are blessed to be a blessing and that forgiveness is vital to any relationship. What is one thing you can do this week to pour your life into someone from the next generation?

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) Jacob, B) uniqueness. IIA) birthright, B) future, IIC) advantage. IIIA) Esau, B) Words, C) faith. IVA) God, B) blessed, C) forgave.