

GENESIS: Where Grace Begins

Another Seriously Dysfunctional Family – Genesis 27:1-40

There's more to the story ...

"... Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. ¹⁷ For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears."

Hebrews 12:16-17

Isaac's deathbed blessing – There are no heroes here:

Isaac – surely knew the _____/_____ of Genesis 25:23, but tried to _____ it. His attempt at passing the blessing was problematic on several points: What required _____ to be legitimate was done in private (Jacob – and everyone else – was excluded from the 'ceremony'.) And what had *already been* surrendered to Jacob was offered to Esau. Besides that, he wasn't really _____ – he lived at least 20 more years beyond this event.

Esau – willingly sold his _____ to Jacob earlier (Gen. 25:33). Hebrews, interpreting Genesis, implies that when he sold the birthright, he lost the _____ too. And now, he is complicit with his father's plan to recoup part of it and breaks his oath to Jacob. And despite the troubles Esau brought on by marrying two Canaanite women (Gen. 26:34-35), he was his father's clear favorite.

Rebekah – _____ against her husband for the sake of her favored son. At great risk, she concocts an elaborate scheme that caused great pain for Isaac and Esau. (And later, herself).

Jacob – went through with the plot, though he had to _____ to keep it going, at one point even invoking the _____ (v. 20). His actions invoked another meaning for his name: "crooked hearted".

Some lessons:

God doesn't require our illicit _____ to accomplish His purposes. Hasn't He demonstrated that already?
_____ never accomplishes _____ ends.

_____ decisions often have _____ effects for you and the people you love.

_____ makes a _____ out of everyone.

"Rebekah was forced to send her pet son to far-off Mesopotamia, away from his father's house, in a destitute condition. Jacob was gone for twenty years, and it appears that his mother never saw him again. Jacob's exile was just payment for his deceiving Esau as he experienced the extended miseries of conflict and exploitation at the hands of his Uncle Laban. Truly, blind old Isaac had tossed a torch into his families' tents by his fighting against God's word. And Esau, who despised his birthright, lost everything."

- R. Kent Hughes, *Genesis: Beginning and Blessing*, 354.

But God has an "invincible determination" to _____ us. And when He _____ US, it can feel devastating, but the _____ are good.

Isaac is called back to a life of faith.

Jacob is pushed down the path to the man he would one day become.

Even Esau becomes a different sort of man. (Gen. 33:4)

God has a way of _____ even seemingly _____ situations for His glory and our good!

Finally, being "_____ " doesn't mean life won't be a _____. It just means the struggle is _____.

Some other things worth considering:

Isaac had lost his _____. He comes off almost as a gluttonous slob. (Gen. 25:28). At any rate, he seems nearly as blind _____ as he was _____. Something needed to happen to shake him from his lethargy.

Also, Isaac wasn't really _____. He just didn't have an _____.

It's a _____ scene all-around for him (but he's not _____).

Esau only cared about _____ things – food, hunting, land, etc. The _____ held no weightiness for him. He wasn't spiritually minded at all. So, while we do feel sorry for him and even understand his _____, for reasons we can deduce (and for reasons we cannot), he was not _____, plus his own _____ led him to this moment.

Jacob has a _____ to becoming "Israel" (Gen. 32:28). But God is going to get him there, even if the journey is _____ for Jacob.

The arc of redemption in the Bible isn't about elevating _____ characters who _____ Him or who have _____ Him. It's about elevating _____ in His _____ and _____ towards _____.

My thoughts: