

Grace for a Dysfunctional Family
05-15-2016

This is a story of a messed up family: Four self-centered people seeking their own advantage through secrecy, deception, manipulation & conspiracy.

- Isaac's fatherly love has blinded him & is causing him to seek to overturn God's revealed will/command. Gen 27:1-4, 25:23, Jer 17:9, Pro 28:26

The blessing was given orally and in public; it was an irrevocable legally binding will.

- Esau SECRETLY conspired with his father to steal back the birthright he legally sold.
 - Are we afraid we will not get our way if we include others? If so, we probably have wrong/illegitimate desires.
- Esau sold his birthright for food, and now Isaac is promising it back for food. 27:5-10

"listening" suggests a pattern of behavior, not an occasional act....shows there is no family trust.

- She should have respectfully confronted her husband about his wicked plan (Eph 4:15, Acts 16:35-40) then leave it to God, who could have reversed Isaac's wrong action.
 - Instead she took matters in her own hands: resisted/usurped/deceived husband
 - Situational ethics: no choice but to violate God's moral absolutes.

Rachel and Jacobs actions displayed their lack faith in the sovereignty of God. Gen 27:11-13, 18-27

- Jacob was a 40-77 yr old, selfish, deceitful ungodly man with no moral conviction.
 - He was concerned for the consequences if he failed, not the morality of the plan.
 - Jacob clearly was not any "more righteous" than Esau. But God elected him!

Esau arrives & is puzzled when Isaac trembles violently (repentance). 27:30-36

- His crying is not pretend but simply remorse, not repentance.
 - He accused Jacob & took no blame for himself. I'm a victim not perpetrator mentality.
 - He did not get his way so he rebelled against parents by marrying pagan. 28:7-9
 - How you respond when not get your way? pouting or acting out?

If only one of the had broken the chain of sin & responded in a God honoring way the outcome probably would have been different, but all of them did it their way & all paid a high price for their sin. Gal. 6:7-8

- Isaac: deceiver is deceived, goat not game, cursed the favorite son Esau, never saw Jacob again, family conflict.
 - Don't go against God commands. Work with not against God.

- Rebekah: lost both sons, never saw her favorite son again, her marriage was damaged.
 - Godly ends do not justify wrong means. Do God's work His way.
- Jacob: was hated by her brother, fled home for 20 yrs, never saw dad/mom alive again, left behind all the material wealth he had gained.
 - Will reap what you sow: deceived by uncle & own sons (w/clothing)
- Esau: bitter, angry, vindictive, godless, lost birthright & blessing.
 - Neglect spiritual things and there is ultimately eternal consequences.

Good News: Ultimately this is not about a dysfunctional family but God's sovereignty in our messes. Act 4:27, Prov 16:9, 19:21, Ps 76:10a, Jam 1:13-14, Ps 46:7, Is 40:11

- Man's sin/plans never thwart the will of God, but can fulfill it.
 - We are responsible for our sin. God allows/uses it but is not the author of it.
 - By grace, do what is right even if only one...break chain of sin.
- Put hope in Lord to change you & your family....He's not done yet!
 - God's love/grace brought Isaac to repentance, healed the brothers' relationship and eventually transformed Jacob into man of God.
- God was sovereign over all of this & faithful to this messy family & He will be likewise to our messy families.