

Working The Angles

Genesis 27:1-46

I The Transferring Of God's Blessing

- A. Isaac was old, **blind** and about to die
- B. Isaac requested a tasty meal from Esau - Ps 141:4
- C. Isaac committed to giving Esau his **blessing** - Prov 3:27

II The Scheming For God's Blessing

- A. Rebekah was eavesdropping on the conversation
- B. Rebekah took things into her own hands:
 - 1. She **informed** Jacob of the situation
 - 2. She **devised** a plan to deceive Isaac - Gen 39:9
 - 3. She **conspired** with Jacob to steal the blessing
 - 4. She accepted the potential consequences
- C. Rebekah's deceptive plans:
 - 1. She sent Jacob to get two young goats
 - 2. She prepared them to taste like wild game
 - 3. She clothed Jacob in Esau's **clothes**
 - 4. She covered Jacob's hands & neck w/ goatskins - Gen 25
 - 5. She sent Jacob to **deceive** Isaac

III The Intercepting Of God's Blessing

- A. Jacob **lied** to his father by saying: - Lev 19:11
 - 1. "I am Esau, your firstborn"
 - 2. "I have done as you told me"
 - 3. "**God** gave me success" - Ex 20:7; Rom 3:7-8
 - 4. "I am really your son, Esau" - Deut 27:18
- B. Isaac was convinced by:
 - 1. The **persistent** lies of Jacob
 - 2. The goatskin coverings
 - 3. The flavor of the game
 - 4. The smell of Jacob's clothes
- C. Isaac **transferred** his blessing to Jacob - Heb 11:20; Prv 19:21
- D. Isaac quickly discovered the deception - Num 32:23-24

IV The Bitterness Of God's Blessing

- A. Esau complained bitterly about Jacob's deception

- 1. "He took my **birthright**" - Gen 25:22-34
- 2. "He took my **blessing**" - 2 Cor 7:10-11
- B. Esau was given second place to Jacob - Heb 12:16-17
- C. Esau held a **grudge** against Jacob - Prov 19:3
 - 1. He planned to eventually kill Jacob - James 4:1-3

V The Fall Out From God's Blessing

- A. Rebekah discovered Esau's murder plot
- B. Rebekah **devised** a countermeasure plan:
 - 1. Jacob must flee to Laban in Haran
 - a. Until Esau's anger had **subsided**
 - b. Until Esau had **forgotten** Jacob's deception
 - 2. Jacob could return when it was safe
- C. Rebekah prepared the way for Jacob's escape
 - 1. She **complained** to Isaac about Esau's Hittite wives
 - 2. She **counseled** against a Hittite wife for Jacob

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

- 1. Share a time when you attempted to "Work The Angles."
- 2. In Gen 25:23, God made it clear that Jacob was to receive the birthright and blessing from Isaac. Why did Isaac refuse to transfer it to Jacob? What should he have done? [Prov 3:27]
- 3. What does this story reveal about the true character and faith of Isaac? Rebekah? Esau? Jacob? What emotions and attitudes fueled their decisions and behavior? What should each person have done? What would have been the result if they had?
- 4. Is there a situation in your life where you are tempted to "Work the Angles" to your advantage? What should you do?
- 5. Take a few moments to "Work the Angles" God's way – on bended knee. Confess and repent of any sin of self-will or deception and finish by praying Psalm 112:1-10 back to God.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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