



“The Search For Blessing”

*Esau said to his father, “Do you have only one blessing, my father? Bless me too, my father!”
Then Esau wept aloud. **Genesis 27:38***

Getting on the Same Page

This Sunday we continue our *Legendary God* series with the story of Jacob, Esau, and the search for blessing. Jacob and Esau were twins, but Esau was born just a minute sooner, making him the rightful heir to a double blessing/portion, and to be the leader of his family when his father Isaac died. Isaac preferred Esau anyway. He was more manly and fit to have this family blessing.

But there was one problem: God declared that Jacob, not Esau, would be the one to get this blessing. Jacob, whose root name means ‘deceiver,’ lives up to his name, as he and his mom devise a plan to steal Esau’s blessing.

The plan works. Jacob and his mom fool Isaac, and Isaac gives the blessing to Jacob. But Jacob has to pretend to be Esau to get it. To make matters worse, Esau finds out and wants to kill Jacob. So Jacob has to leave his homeland penniless and alone. He doesn’t seem to be very blessed.

The truth is, all of us crave to be blessed; to be seen, validated and valued. And none of us can bless ourselves. So we look for it in family members, friends, significant others, careers, etc. But Jesus is the only one who can truly bless us. He is the only one who can give us an unearned blessing that will put our hearts at rest. Jesus had all the blessing due the firstborn and more in heaven. But he gave it all up to take on the curse of sin for us. He was betrayed, rejected, and killed for us.

Jesus is the true Isaac, who doesn't show favoritism. Jesus is the true Jacob, who, instead of fighting for the blessing, gave it up for us. Jesus is the true Rebekah, who actually was cursed so we could be blessed. If we have Jesus, we can know that God smiles on us. In Jesus, we are fully blessed. We have nothing to gain, nothing to lose, and nothing to prove.

Not only that, but our God delights to work with broken people just like us. He uses broken people to move His story along. He loves us right where we are, but also loves us too much to leave us there.

Discussion Questions

Getting Started

- Why is it so important to see God as the hero in all these stories?
- Discuss a time when someone you care about made you feel valued, seen, understood.
- Discuss something good from your family of origin. Without getting too intense, discuss something dysfunctional from your family of origin.
- Read Genesis 27. What stands out to you?

Study

- Put yourself in Jacob's place. How would you feel?
- Respond: All of us desire to be richly blessed, but none of us can bless ourselves.
- Respond: Jacob does not have the affection of his father, Isaac, but he is not a helpless victim.
- To obtain Isaac's blessing, Jacob literally dresses up like his brother. Describe how we "dress up" to get approval from others today.
- Respond: God's blessing through Jesus isn't earned, it's received.
- Respond: God brings his scandalous grace into the lives of people that don't seek it, don't deserve it, resist it, and don't even appreciate it after they've been saved by it.

Apply

- Discuss how Jesus is the greater Isaac, Jacob and Rebekah. Discuss how you can rest in Jesus' blessing this week, instead of searching for it somewhere else.

