

4. How We Can Find Our Blessing

“Isaac trembled violently and said, ‘Who was it, then, that hunted game and brought it to me?’ ‘I ate it just before you came and I blessed him—and indeed he will be blessed!’”
Genesis 27:33

- **What is the moral of this story?**

God brings his grace into the lives of people who don’t seek it, don’t deserve it, continually resist it, and don’t even appreciate it after they’ve been saved by it, over and over and over again.

Isaac knows he has been fighting against God, and he accepts defeat.

Do you know why he has been fighting against God?

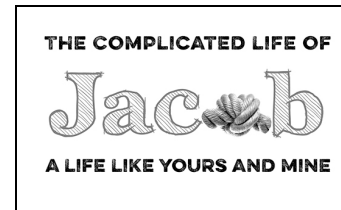
“Rebekah became pregnant with twins. 22 But the two children struggled with each other in her womb. So she went to ask the Lord about it. “Why is this happening to me?” she asked. 23 And the Lord told her, “The sons in your womb will become two nations. From the very beginning, the two nations will be rivals. One nation will be stronger than the other; and **your older son will serve your younger son.**”
Genesis 25:21-23

Isaac has been fighting God all along but Isaac gets it, when he says, “Indeed, he shall be blessed,” he’s not only saying, “*God is going to do this.*” He’s also saying, “*I am going to accept it.*”

- **How do we accept God’s grace and receive his blessing?**

He is the image of the invisible God, the **firstborn** of all creation.18...He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the **firstborn** from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.
Colossians 2:15,18

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven,
Hebrews 12:22,23



God’s Grace Amidst Family Dysfunction

The Story of Jacob, Esau, Isaac, Rebekah
Genesis 25-28

“Esau, my son, go out, hunt for some game, and then fix up the game in the way I like, fix it into a meal for me, bring it to me, and **I will give you the blessing** before I die.”
Genesis 27:2-4

1. The Power Of Blessing

- Rebekah, the mom and Jacob the second born, understood this blessing could be stolen.

30 ...Esau talking: “My father, please sit up and eat some of my game, so that you may give me your blessing.”32 His father Isaac asked him, “Who are you? “I am your son,” he answered, “your firstborn, Esau.” 33 Isaac trembled violently and said, “Who was it, then, that hunted game and brought it to me? I ate it just before you came **and I blessed him—and indeed he will be blessed!**” 34 When Esau heard his father’s words, he burst out with a loud and bitter cry and said to his father, “**Bless me—me too, my father!**”
Genesis 27:30,32-34

- By the text we learn that both Isaac and Esau as upset as they are by it can’t revoke the blessing stolen.

“Haven’t you reserved any blessing for me?”37 Isaac answered Esau, “I have made him lord over you and have made all his relatives his servants, and I have sustained him with grain and new wine. So what can I possibly do for you, my son?”
Genesis 27:36,37

What is this “blessing” that is so powerful?

From a cultural perspective this blessing is taken with an utmost gravity by both father and son, and both of them expect the blessing to impact the destiny of Esau.

The significance of its impact is clearly seen by what Rebekah and Jacob are willing to do to steal it away from Esau. Not to mention Esau’s distress in losing it.

It was a blessing that once given came true!

2. We Deeply Need Blessing

So Jacob took the food to his father. “My father?” he said. “Yes, my son,” Isaac answered. “Who are you—Esau or Jacob?” 19 Jacob replied, “It’s Esau, your firstborn son. I’ve done as you told me. Here is the wild game. Now sit up and eat it so you can give me your blessing.”

Genesis 27:18,19

Robert Alter, the great Jewish scholar and expert in Hebrew narrative says Jacob gets by the lie quickly: “*It’s Esau,*”

Then he comes to what he really wants to say: “*I am your firstborn.*”

- **Why is Jacob exploiting his father?**

He tells us right here. He says, “*I’m your real firstborn*”. I should be the head of the family, not my shallow, temperamental brother.

I’ll tell you what you have here. Isaac gave favoritism to one kid over the other, and it hurt everybody.

3. How We Usually Try To Get Blessing

Jacob I think is a frightening picture of how most of us try to get blessing.

- **We pretend to be somebody we’re not.**

Jacob’s real self hadn’t worked, had it? He was smaller by a long shot than Esau. He was domestic. He wasn’t manly in appearance. Esau had all the man skills. Esau had the chest hair.

But most telling is the fact that Jacob couldn’t get the blessing from the one person he most wanted it from, his Dad.

So he dressed up like somebody else. He became somebody else. He hid.

We’re not letting people see who we are. We’re not letting people see the flaws, we’re not letting people see the fears, we’re not letting people see the weaknesses.

Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Please come a little closer and kiss me, my son.” 27 So Jacob went over and kissed him. And when Isaac caught the smell of his clothes, he was finally convinced, and he blessed his son. He said, “Ah! The smell of my son is like the smell of the outdoors, which the Lord has blessed!”

Genesis 27:26,27

Jacob finally got the look on his Dad’s face he always wanted to have, and he got the words from Isaac’s lips he always wanted to hear.

Do you think it helped? No. **Do you know why?**

Because he knew it wasn’t him Isaac was loving and blessing.