

Introduction

- This well-known story is not about how Jacob stole the blessing from Esau.
- God has already promised that the Abrahamic blessing will go to Jacob not Esau.
- The question is whether or not the family will accept and trust God's promise.
- This story is about how a family's sin has tragic consequences for the community.
- Isaac tries to bless Esau, but Jacob and Rebekah trick him "stealing" the blessing.

Isaac

- Isaac already knows that Jacob has received the Abrahamic blessing, but he attempts to give the blessing to Esau.
- He wants to bless Esau, even though Esau has sold the birthright, married outside of the tribe, married multiple women, and made his parent's life bitter.
- He did not provide a suitable bride for Esau, as he will for Jacob and as his father did for him. This is his failure.
- He is not about to die. He will live for close to 40 more years.
- His senses have gone. He cannot see (v. 1), hear (v. 18), feel (v. 22), or smell (v. 27). His spiritual senses are even worse.
- He seems to be guided by a love for food, as Esau was in selling his birthright.
- He only loves Esau and not Jacob.
- His blessing attempts to place Jacob under Esau.
- Isaac has received the Abrahamic blessing, but he will not determine how it passes.
- Now his sons will wait for him to die so they can murder each other.
- His family completely disintegrates with everyone alienated from each other.
- He loses the son he loves.

Rebekah

- She attempts to gain the Abrahamic blessing for her favorite son through deception.
- She loves Jacob not Esau.
- She is only ever described as having feelings of bitterness from Esau.
- She has been listening to Isaac and Esau, probably suspicious this would happen.
- She commands Jacob to obey her voice and commands instead of the voice of God.
- She is determined to take matters into her own hands instead of confronting Isaac or crying out to God.
- She has an elaborate deception plan ready to go.
- She is willing to fall under the curse of God if need be (v. 13).
- She blames Jacob and does not take responsibility (v. 45).
- She does not attempt to reconcile the brothers or confront Esau's plan.
- She is focused on how Jacob's death would affect her.
- She has the right motives but goes about it the wrong way.
- She ends in despair loathing her life.
- She will never see Jacob again and disappears from the story.

Esau

- He continues to try and usurp and take what God has given to his brother.
- He marries foreign women and makes his parents miserable.
- He has forfeited what little blessing he had.
- He does not appear to worship or serve God (v. 20).
- He blames Jacob for stealing what was God's to give.
- He does not take any responsibility for his own actions (v. 36).
- He is harboring murder and hatred in his heart.
- He doubles down and marries every more foreign women (28:8-9).
- He loses even more of the blessing and his sin is deteriorating and spiraling.

Jacob

- He is happy to listen to his mother's voice instead of God's.
- He worries whether or not the plan will succeed.
- His only concern is whether or not he will be mocked and cursed (v. 12).
- He lies to his father repeatedly.
- He takes God's name in vain (v. 20).
- No repentance and no confession of his sin.
- He runs away instead of trying to repair what he broke.
- His manipulation, which will continue to be a problem.
- His consequence is that his life will be spent trying to trick others.

God

- God allowed all of this foolishness to take place
- God's will is still going to be done.
- God did not need their help, but their faith.

Application

- Our sin also has tragic consequences on the community.
- Sin never effects just you but our community and our church.
- When we deceive instead of trusting God, it destroys the community.