

A Daily Devotional Study Guide

The Book of Genesis

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth - Genesis 1:1

WEEK 8

“Fleshly Responses”

Study: Genesis 25:27-34

Reading: Matthew 5:33-37

Memory: Matthew 5:46

I have never been a person to act impulsively on my emotions (though it has sometimes happened), and I find it very easy to get bothered by those who act impulsively. It is easy to judge others for this because this is not a great struggle of mine, yet I have my own struggles in other areas. One of the things that I have always struggled with is being slightly deceptive to get my way. For instance, when I was a teenager I would go into McDonalds and order a sprite and then act like I didn't have money to pay for it. I would then change my order to a water and they would often give me the sprite for free. Though God has worked in my heart mightily, my flesh still creeps up at times in this area.

Today, we are going to see how Esau struggled with being impulsive and Jacob struggled with being deceptive.

What Does the Bible Say?

The twins that Rebekah gave birth to were very different from each other. Esau grew up to become a skillful hunter while Jacob was more of a homely man who liked to do more domestic tasks. Their personalities led to their parents liking one over the other. Rebekah enjoyed having Jacob around with her while Isaac loved the hunting spirit of Esau and the food that would come as a result of his hunting skills (vs 24-28).

We are told of a day where Esau went out hunting and came home exhausted. Jacob had been cooking a stew and when the smell of the stew reached the nostrils of Esau, he greatly desired some. He asked Jacob for some of the stew. The stew was described as “red stew” though we are not told why. Esau was also known for being red because of his hair. His descendants would eventually be called the Edomites which meant “red” and probably had something to do with this narrative. In response to the request of Esau for some food, Jacob denied Esau and asked him to exchange his birthright for some stew. The birthright was a special

blessing that would be past to the oldest child. It meant that the oldest would get a double portion of what all of the other children would get. Apparently, Jacob was somewhat jealous of Esau and he was looking for an opportunity to take advantage of his brother. (We will see shortly that he was a great deceiver.)

Esau was impulsive and thought much more about his immediate desires than he did his future. Esau showed little respect for his birthright or perhaps he didn't really think that Jacob was serious. Whatever the case, he agreed to give Jacob his birthright. Jacob kept his end of the bargain and gave Esau the stew. Esau ate the stew and enjoyed it, but, after words, it must have been bitter to him because he realized what he had done and despised his birthright (vs 29-34).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you find yourself like Jacob or Esau? Esau was impulsive and didn't think through things before he made his choice. He cared about fulfilling his immediate flesh rather than the long term results. It is very easy to do this, especially in our culture today where immediate gratification is highly promoted in the media. You have access to so many different pleasures that you do not have to wait for much at all. It is easy to get consumed with this pleasure filled society and not to think about what the future results will be. On the other hand, some people are very disciplined and controlled when it comes to their pleasures, but can find themselves being deceptive when it comes to getting their way. For some people it is very easy not to be honest and it is easy for them to see opportunities to take more for themselves, rather than giving to others. Jacob could have had love and compassion for his brother and just give him the stew, but instead, he saw his brother's hunger as an opportunity to take advantage of him. Take time today to evaluate your life to see if you have a tendency to be like Esau or Jacob. If you see those things in your life, ask God to help change your heart.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Thank God for revealing weaknesses in your life.
- * Ask God to show you areas of weakness in your life.
- * Praise God because He knows who you are and loves you anyway.

Thought for the day

What was the difference between Esau and Jacob (vs 27)?

Why do you think that twins would be so different? Why is it important that God has made us all unique?

How did their parents view them as a result of their differences (vs 28)?

Why is it hard for parents not to have favorites?

****As a side note, I believe it is easy for parents to get along with some of their children more than others. This is why it is important for parents to seek to connect with all of their children. The connecting point with each child will be different, and parents must be purposeful to connect with each child, avoiding favoritism.*

What scenario are we given in verse 29?

What did Esau want (vs 30)?

What did "Edom" mean (vs 30)? Why do you think this mention of Edom is included here?

What did Jacob want (vs 31)?

Why do you think Jacob would have wanted this?

What did Esau think (vs 32)?

What can you see about Esau from this comment?

****Esau was most likely not going to actually die of starvation. He was just very hungry. That hunger consumed him and he chose to act rashly.*

What did Jacob push Esau to do (vs 33)?

What agreement did they make (vs 34)?

How did Esau react after this event (vs 34)? What can you see about

human nature from this?

“The Problem of Fear”

Study: Genesis 26:1-11

Reading: Proverbs 3:1-12, James 4:1-17

Memory: Matthew 5:46

When our family stepped out on faith to start our new ministry in Michigan, it was definitely a move of faith for us. Though it was a move that started in faith, there was a constant battle with fear. My biggest fear was not one for the safety and security of my family, but what I had a difficult time with was trusting God to provide for our needs. Things did not work out as I had planned and envisioned (little did I know God’s way was much greater than mine). Instead of trusting in God’s plan, I spent hours worrying and trying to figure things out on my own. The fear was often overwhelming, and yet, along the way God would send reminder after reminder of His faithfulness to us and was trying to get me to turn to Him and trust Him to meet our needs.

Today, we are going to see that fear has always been a struggle among the people of God.

What Does the Bible Say?

Isaac continued what Abraham had started and was managing the many possessions that his father had left him. Part of the difficulty for Isaac and his workers was to find good grazing land for their livestock. This was made much more difficult during a time where a famine swept over the land. Isaac was seeking a place where there would be enough food for his family and animals which caused him to travel to the area of Gerar where Abimelech was king of the Philistines. We know that Abraham had dealt with Abimelech, but we are not sure if this is the same one. Abimelech could have been a title for the king, just like Pharaoh was the title for the king of Egypt. Isaac must have considered heading on down to the land of Egypt, but God directed Isaac not to go down Egypt. Instead, he wanted Isaac to stay in the land that would eventually be called Israel. God would bless him and give this land to his family. The promise given to Abraham would carry on through Isaac and he would become a

father of a great nation. His descendants would be as many as the stars in the heavens. This covenant that was made with Abraham was being passed down to Isaac and God desired that Isaac obey Him just as his father had done. As Isaac continued to obey, God would be with him and God would bless him (vs 1-5).

Isaac must have learned from the great faith of his father, but Isaac also followed in his father’s footsteps when it came to protecting his wife. He, like Abraham, was afraid he would lose his life if they found out that he and Rebekah were married. When they asked Isaac about Rebekah, he told them that Rebekah was his sister. Again, we see the reason that Isaac lied was just like the reason that Abraham lied. This was an area of weakness for both of them. Though they trusted God for many things, this was one area where they had a hard time trusting God (vs 6-7).

Abimelech didn’t send for Rebekah to be his wife like the Abimelech in Abraham’s day. He may have been interested in her for himself or he could have been interested in giving her to one of his children. We do know that Abimelech knew about the both of them because he saw them acting like a husband and wife and not like a brother or sister. When Abimelech confronted Isaac, he was not happy that Isaac had lied about his wife. Isaac explained that he lied out of fear and wanted to protect his wife, but Abimelech was angry because this lie not only could have compromised Rebekah, but it could have brought problems to their whole nation. Abimelech made it known that Rebekah was married and warned his men not to take her for a wife (vs 8-11).

How Does this Apply to Me?

You might be thinking in your mind, “How could Isaac do this?” That thought has come across my mind as I wonder how both Abraham and Isaac, men who followed God, were willing to take the chance that something dangerous might happen to their wives. To fully understand this, you would have to live in the culture of that day. If you think about it, in the culture of our day there are many times when you may be tempted to lie or deceive others out of fear. No, you may not be afraid of losing your life, but there are many other things that you may do out of fear, though you might not look at them as being so wrong. Probably the biggest fears that believers face in the American society today is the fear that we will lose our security (our enjoyable lifestyles). There are many other fears as well and sometimes you may have great victory over certain types of fear, but struggle with other types. You must choose to trust God

rather than yourself or your human reasoning.

What was happening in the land where Isaac was living (vs 1)?

Where did Isaac go for help (vs 1)?

What did God not want Isaac to do (vs 2)?

Why do you think God didn't want him to go down to Egypt?

Where did God want Isaac to live (vs 3)?

What promise did God make to Isaac (vs 3)?

What promise did God give to Isaac in verse 4?

Why do you think God gave Isaac the same promise he gave Abraham (vs 4)?

What did God say about the obedience of Abraham (vs 5)?

Where did Isaac choose to settle (vs 6)?

****It is uncertain today where Gerar is, but it would have been located in the southwest part of Israel, near the border of today's Gaza strip.*

What did Isaac say when the people asked about Rebekah (vs 7)?

Why do you think that Isaac lied?

What did Abimelech notice (vs 8)?

What did Abimelech do after he realized the truth about Isaac and Rebekah's relationship (vs 9)?

What was Abimelech concerned about (vs 10)?

Why do you think he had this concern?

What command did Abimelech give (vs 11)?

“Great Blessings”

Study: Genesis 26:12-22

Reading: Matthew 6:19-34

Memory: Matthew 5:46

Throughout the many years of our married lives, my wife and I lived on income levels that were considered to be around the Federal Poverty Level. There were a few years here and there where God provided some extra jobs that upped our income levels, but, in general, we would have been considered by some as “poor.” Though some might have considered us that way by our income level, I never thought of us as being close to “poor.” In fact, I have always thought that I was quite wealthy. Our family was able to have many things, travel a variety of places and participate in many events. We have made the most of the money God had given us. Though our income may have been limited at times, we found that when we chose to follow God and put Him first that we truly were rich, though our bank account never really showed this.

Today, we are going to see that Isaac was blessed by God financially, yet, those same blessings also caused an additional set of problems. We will be reminded that God chooses to give some people great wealth and God chooses not to give others financial wealth. Though not all men will be financially wealthy, those who choose to follow God already have a wealth that is not of this world.

What Does the Bible Say?

God’s blessing on Isaac and his family was very clear for all to see. We are told that in one year God allowed him to reap a hundredfold on the crops that he had planted. This would have been an amazing harvest for his household and must have been a great help coming out of a famine. He was considered by those around him to be a very wealthy man, probably one of the richest men in the region. His flocks grew and so did the number of servants he had to hire to take care of the flocks. This was great for Isaac, but with the growing number of people and possessions, the people in the area were starting to get jealous and felt that Isaac was crowding them out. The Philistines had started filling in the wells that Abraham had dug and claimed for his own to try to get Isaac to leave. The

wealth of Isaac reached the point that caused Abimelech to become afraid that he might get overthrown. He told Isaac that he needed to leave his land because of his great wealth (vs 12-16).

Isaac moved as Abimelech had requested, but started facing problems in the Valley of Gerar where he had moved. Isaac re-dug some of the wells that had been filled in and he gave them the names that his father had originally given them. Even though the wells had been stopped up, when Isaac’s servants re-dug them, the people of the land claimed the wells for themselves. This caused problems in the region and caused Isaac to call the well “Esek” which meant “contention.” He dug another well and called that one “Sitnah” which meant “enmity” because of the fight the locals put up about that well. He moved on again and found a place where they could use a well without having those in the land bother them. He called that place “Rehoboth” which meant “broad place.” Rehoboth was around 20 miles south of Beersheba in a land that most other people didn’t want. Isaac thanked God for giving him an area that would be large enough to host all of his possessions and where he wouldn’t have to keep fighting with the people of the land (vs 17-22).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize that it is okay to have wealth? Do you know that following God will not always mean that you will be poor? God has blessed some people with great financial wealth and there are others that He has not. This is all part of His master plan that you can’t fully understand. God was giving great wealth and prosperity to Isaac to help show the nations around him that God was on his side. This also was given to him as a blessing for his obedience. There are some who look to people like Abraham and Isaac and claim that God wants you to be wealthy as His follower. You may think this if you only look at Abraham and Isaac and a few other select Bible characters, but when you take the Bible as a whole, you will see that God has different plans for different people. If God does bless you with wealth, it is not for you to use just for your pleasure, but to be able to use it for His glory. In reality, if you live in the United States you are probably wealthier than the majority of the world. The Bible clearly reveals that wealth can be used in a great way for the kingdom of God, but that wealth can also cause great harm to those who don’t handle it correctly. I Timothy 6:6 says, “But godliness with contentment is great gain.”

How did God bless Isaac (vs 12)?

How much did God bless Isaac (vs 13)?

What does this reveal about the power of God to bless his people?

Does this mean that God will always bless those who seek after Him with earthly wealth?

What do you think should be the proper view that Christians should have towards earthly wealth?

What was happening as Isaac became more and more wealthy (vs 14)?

What did the Philistines continually do (vs 15)?

What did Abimelech tell Isaac he needed to do (vs 16)?

What do you think Abimelech was scared of (vs 16)?

Where did Isaac go next (v 17)?

What did Isaac do with the wells that his father had originally dug (vs 18)?

What happened when Isaac started opening up these wells that had been filled in (vs 19-20)?

What did Isaac call the well (vs 20)? Why?

What does this reveal about the importance of many of the names of places in the Bible?

What was the second well called (vs 21)? Why?

What did Isaac call the third well (vs 22)? Why?

****The area of Rehoboth was in more of a desert region and was land that others would not have wanted. Isaac did not complain, but was thankful that he found a place that he could live in peace.*

“Blessings & Trials”

Study: Genesis 26:23-35

Reading: Philippians 4:10-20

Memory: Matthew 5:46

After living in Wisconsin and working at the same church for 19 years, the choice to move to Michigan was a difficult one. We clearly knew that this was what God wanted and chose to obey. The move and first year came with completely opposite emotions. It was very difficult, yet very easy. It was stressful, but relaxing. It was full of joy, yet also painful. How could it be all of these opposites? It was because we were experiencing God’s blessing, but as we will read about today, sometimes the blessings of God also cause there to be times of pain and difficulty. Living in obedience to God and following Him will always be the best way and He will be with you all the way.

What Does the Bible Say?

While Isaac was in Beersheba, God appeared to him and reminded him of the promise He had given to Abraham and how that promise would continue through Isaac and his descendants. God was going to bless Isaac and multiply his seed and they would become a great nation. Isaac then took the opportunity to build an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord. This is what Abraham did when God appeared to Him and seems to be a response of praise, thanksgiving and worship to God. It could also have been an act of confirmation to declare that Isaac was going to worship the God of Abraham (vs 23-25).

Abimelech traveled to see Isaac and took Ahuzzah and Phicol along with him. We know that Abimelech and Phicol traveled to see Abraham many years before. As mentioned already, it could be that Abimelech and Phicol were titles for leaders and not the same men, though we are not certain. Isaac wondered why they wanted to see him since not too long before this they told him that he needed to leave their land. Just as they expressed to Abraham, they also expressed to Isaac that they knew that God was with him and God was blessing him. They wanted to make a covenant with Isaac that he would leave them alone and do no harm to their nation, just as they did no harm to him. Isaac agreed to their desire

for peace and they feasted together. They also exchanged oaths with each other (a peace treaty) before Abimelech and his men traveled back to the land of Gerar (vs 26-31).

Once the men had left, the servants of Isaac told him they found water in the area they were staying at. This was a big deal in those days because having a water source was a must for anyone wanting to survive. Since they were forced out of Gerar, they needed to find a new and consistent water source that they could use for themselves. Isaac called this well “Shibah” which probably meant “oath” in honor of the covenant he had made earlier that day. This is the same area and may be the same well that Abraham had paid for when he made his covenant with Abimelech. The name “Beersheba” meant “well of the oath” (vs 32-33).

Though much was going well in the life of Isaac, some of the choices his sons made were very difficult to handle. One of these was made by Esau when he chose to take wives from the Hittite nation. We are told that these Hittite wives made life very bitter for Isaac and Rebekah (vs 34-35).

How Does this Apply to Me?

It is interesting to see how the blessing of God on Isaac’s life made his life easier at times but also made his life more difficult at times. The difficulty that he faced was that he was forced to move out of the area. He was forced to move because of the blessing of God on his life. At the same time, that blessing also brought him safety because Abimelech wisely knew it would not be good to do anything to harm Isaac or his household. Though you most likely will not face anything exactly like Isaac faced, the understanding is still the same. When you trust God and live for Him, God’s blessing on your life may produce difficulties. This comes at times by the difficulties you face when you step out on faith. God’s blessings don’t always make life easier and sometimes they make it much harder. These difficulties though are often short lived and at the end of them is often more blessings and a greater peace.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for your blessings in disguise.*
- * *Ask God not to let the difficulties discourage you from following Him.*
- * *Praise God because He uses every circumstance in your life for your good and for His glory.*

Where did Isaac travel next (vs 23)?

Why didn’t Abraham and Isaac stay in one place?

Why do you think God appeared to him that night (vs 24)?

****Most likely, Isaac had to move due to a lack of resources. It could be that God appeared that night to help reassure Isaac after the move, reminding Him that even though circumstances might require difficult choices like moving, God still had a great plan for him.*

What did God tell Isaac (vs 24)?

Why do you think Isaac built an altar (vs 25)?

Who traveled to see Isaac (vs 26)?

What did Isaac want to know (vs 27)?

What did these men realize (vs 28)?

How do you think this was reassuring to Isaac?

Why did these men want to make a covenant with Isaac (vs 28-29)?

What did Isaac choose to do (vs 30-31)?

What did Isaac’s servants reveal (vs 32)?

What did they name the well (vs 33)? Why?

Why do you think this narrative is recorded in Scripture?

Who did Esau take as a wife (vs 34)?

Why do you think this would have grieved his parents?

What was the end result?

“Deception Versus Trust”

Study: Genesis 27:1-40

Reading: --

Memory: Matthew 5:46

What Does the Bible Say?

As Isaac grew older, he lost his eyesight. He thought that he was soon going to die and knew it was time to pass the blessing down to his oldest son Esau. He called Esau and asked Esau to go hunting and get some delicious meat for him to eat. Following that, he would perform the act of passing the blessing down to Esau. In those days, the oldest son was viewed as a very special person as it was that son who traditionally carried on the lineage and family name of the father. He would inherit twice as much as the other children which was part of his birthright (vs 1-4).

Rebekah heard what was going on and wanted something different for her sons. After all, Esau had taken wives from the Hittites and had caused great trouble for the family. Rebekah had a desire for Jacob to get what was rightfully Esau's and she devised a plan to deceive her husband. She went to Jacob and told him what was happening and asked him to bring a few young goats in from the flock. She knew what food Isaac loved and how to make it so it would taste like the game that Esau killed. Her plan was that Jacob would act like Esau and take the food to his father, tricking him into giving the birthright and blessing to the wrong son. Jacob didn't know if this would work since he was much different than his brother, especially when it came to body hair. Jacob was afraid his father would realize it was him and curse him rather than bless him. Yet, Rebekah insisted that Jacob carry out her plans (vs 5-13).

Jacob did as his mother asked and she prepared the goat just the way Isaac liked his game prepared. Rebekah then took some of Esau's clothes and put the goat skin on the hands and neck of Jacob. She gave the food to Jacob and told him to go do as she instructed. Jacob then went to Isaac and pretended to be Esau. Isaac was surprised because he did not expect Esau to be back so soon. Jacob lied and told his father that God had been good and allowed him to kill an animal right away. Isaac wanted to feel Jacob since he doubted if it was really Esau. Isaac felt Jacob and Jacob felt like Esau, but he still sounded like Jacob. When Jacob straight out

lied and said he was Esau, Isaac trusted him. Though Isaac doubted, he trusted the feel over his other senses and proceeded to bless Jacob (vs 14-25).

After Isaac had finished eating, he had Jacob come near him and kissed him. Isaac smelled the smell of Esau and was convinced it was the correct son so he blessed Jacob. In his blessing he asked God to bless him financially in a great way and asked God to cause other nations to serve him. He prayed that God would allow others to be under his control and that God would bless those who blessed him and curse those who curse him (vs 26-29).

Jacob left his father with the blessing and birthright, and right after he left, Esau came home. He prepared his game the way his father liked and asked his father to eat what he prepared. Isaac questioned what was going on and began to realize that he had been deceived by Jacob. When Esau figured out what was going on, he became very angry and begged for a blessing as well. Isaac told him that he couldn't give him the same blessing that he gave to his brother. Esau begged for some type of blessing. What Isaac had to say was not what Esau wanted to hear. Isaac declared that Esau would not live in the land that God had promised and that he and his descendants would serve Jacob and his descendants. Though there would be times that Edom, the sons of Esau, would break the rule of Israel, they generally would be subject to them (vs 30-40).

How Does this Apply to Me?

There is a reason that the Bible says that God hates lying. Lying and deception don't lead to good, but lead to more problems. It had already been revealed that Esau would serve Jacob before they were born, yet God didn't need the trickery of men to make this work. Though you may read this and wonder how such blatant deception could take place, an honest look at life will reveal that sin doesn't look as bad when you are the one who is sinning. It is easy not to trust God and to fall into deception in order to gain an advantage. It is very easy to justify this and excuse it in your eyes because it works out better for you. The opposite of deception is trust. When you trust God to work things out, He will work it out His way, which is much better for you. Your way may seem good at the time, but as we will continue to read, the consequences for deception are much harder than the benefits of the blessings you will receive when you choose to trust God.

What trouble was Isaac having (vs 1)?

What did Isaac ask Esau to do (vs 1-4)?

Why did Isaac ask Esau to do this (vs 4)?

Why do you think Rebekah was listening (vs 5)?

What did Rebekah ask Jacob to do (vs 6-9)?

What was Rebekah's plan (vs 10)?

Why did Jacob question this plan (vs 11-12)?

What did Rebekah insist (vs 13)?

What did Rebekah do (vs 14-17)?

What did Isaac ask (vs 18)?

How did Jacob directly lie to his father (vs 19)?

Why was Isaac confused (vs 20)?

How did Isaac confirm it was Esau (vs 21)?

Why did Isaac continue to question (vs 24)?

What else deceived Isaac (vs 27)?

What did Isaac say in his blessing (vs 28-29)?

What happened once Isaac was done blessing Jacob (vs 30)?

What did Isaac realize (vs 31-33)?

How did Esau respond (vs 34-36)?

What did Isaac say would happen to Esau and his descendants (vs 39-40)?

“The Results of Deception”

Study: Genesis 27:41-28:9

Reading: Colossians 3:1-17

Memory: Matthew 5:46

When I was a freshman in college, I was quite immature. In general, I was a good student, but there were some classes that I didn't like, and I didn't want to do my work. In one of those classes, I decided to cheat a little, and, for one of the papers that I did, I just printed out a copy of the paper my sister did the year before. I figured the teacher read over 100 of these papers each year and would never remember my sister's paper from the year before. She received a "B" on her paper, but, when I got the same paper back, I was given a "D". (Which is quite humorous to me.) I was still passing so I thought I got away with it, until a week or two later when I was called in to the office. It seems that I wasn't the only person who wanted to cheat by using my sister's paper because her roommate, who was in the same class as me, also turned in an almost identical paper. She just turned it in a week later than I did. Needless to say, my deception did not pay off for me and I remember the awful feeling I had when I found out that they knew I had cheated.

Today, we are going to see how we may think deception will pay for us, but ultimately, we will be the ones who have to pay for our deceptive practices.

What Does the Bible Say?

As you can imagine, Esau wasn't at all happy with what Jacob had done and how Jacob had robbed him of his blessing and birthright. Esau hated Jacob so much that he planned to kill Jacob after his father Isaac had died. His hatred and desire to murder his brother was not kept secret, but was told to his mother. She was probably monitoring the situation very carefully since she was the one who instigated the whole thing. When Rebekah heard what Esau planned to do, she called for Jacob and explained the situation and how his life would be in danger. She told him that he needed to leave and head to her brother's house in Haran and stay there until the fury of Esau calmed down. She would then send for Jacob

when things calmed down. Rebekah knew that if Jacob stayed around she might lose both of her sons because of murder and the punishment for the murder (vs 41-45).

In order to have an excuse for Jacob to leave, she went and told Isaac that she didn't want Jacob to marry a woman from the Hittites like Esau did. Instead, she wanted Jacob to travel back to Haran and find a wife from her family so she wouldn't have to bear the agony that she was going through as a result of Esau's marriages (vs 46).

Even though Jacob had deceived his father, Isaac looked beyond this deception and blessed Jacob, telling him to travel to Haran to find a wife. He wanted God's blessing to be upon his son and knew that the promise that originally had been given to Abraham would continue through the line of Jacob and that his seed would be greatly blessed. Jacob did as he was instructed and headed to Haran (vs 1-5).

Esau realized that his parents were not happy that he had married Hittite women so in an attempt to make them be pleased with him, he found a daughter of Ishmael to marry. (Ishmael was Isaac's half-brother.) We are not told much else about this marriage, but it appears that this was a failed attempt to please his parents because the line of Ishmael was not God's chosen line. It appears that, in an attempt to make things better, he just compounded the issue and made things worse (vs 6-9).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you see the pain and agony that deception can cause? There is a reason that God hates a lying tongue and that believers are told over and over again to be truthful in all that they do. Lying and deception might appear at times to be the only way to get what you want, but the end results will never be what you want them to be. One of the reasons that God doesn't want you to lie or deceive is because he knows it will be bad for you. You may not see this when you are tempted to lie, because you might only see how it benefits you. Yet, you can't know what God knows and you can't see the negative consequences. Choose to tell the truth and trust God to work things out for you how He wants them to be worked out.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for always being truthful with you.*
- * *Ask God to help you avoid deception and dishonesty.*
- * *Praise God because He has control of all the affairs of this world.*

How did Esau view Jacob (vs 41)?

What did Esau plan to do (vs 41)?

Who found out about Esau's plan (vs 42)?

What did she tell Jacob he needed to do (vs 43)?

What was Rebekah's hope (vs 44)?

What was Rebekah afraid of (vs 45)?

What did Rebekah tell Isaac (vs 46)?

What did Isaac not want Jacob to do (vs 1)?

Where was Jacob directed to go (vs 2)?

What blessing was passed onto Jacob (vs 3)?

What did Isaac emphasize about the promised land (vs 4)?

Where did Jacob plan to travel to (vs 5)?

What did Esau observe about Isaac's instructions to Jacob (vs 6)?

What did Esau realize (vs 8)?

Who did Esau take as a wife (vs 8-9)?

Why do you think he chose to do this?

Do you think this would have made Isaac and Rebekah feel better? Explain your answer.

****We are not told what type of relationship Isaac had with Ishmael. We know that Sarah did not want Ishmael around, but we also know that Isaac and Ishmael united to bury Abraham. Most likely, the new marriage of Esau did nothing to enhance the view of his parents towards him.*

Matthew 5

26 Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. 27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. 31 “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ 32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. 33 “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ 34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil. 38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ 39 But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41 And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. 43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?