

# GENESIS 27

## Introduction

God had revealed His will for Jacob and Esau to Isaac and Rebekah at their birth:

Genesis 25:23 And the LORD said to her: "Two nations *are* in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; *One* people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger."

All four of them should have faithfully submitted to the revealed will of God. Instead all four of them *failed* to submit to the revealed will of God: Isaac and Esau schemed to subvert God's will, and Rebekah and Jacob schemed to safeguard God's will.

Isaac and Esau's secret scheme to subvert God's will is inexcusable. Regardless their personal objections to His plan to bless the younger son, they should have realized that obedience to His plan would have brought them all into His blessings.

Rebekah and Jacob's scheme to safeguard God's will seems to have some merit, but it is equally inexcusable. The spiritual motive of safeguarding God's blessing for Jacob doesn't excuse the carnal methods they employed. Regardless their personal observations of Jacob and Esau's plan, they should have realized that God would overrule Isaac and Esau to bring Jacob the blessing as He had promised.

God has revealed His will for you and I! Especially in His written Word we have the revealed will of God for our lives and the promise that submission to it will bring us into God's blessing. Do you and I always submit to what we read there? We desire to, but we do not...Like Isaac and Esau, we sometimes seek to subvert God's will, thinking that we know better than our Father in heaven what will truly bring blessing into our lives. Like Rebekah and Jacob, we sometimes seek to safeguard God's will, using carnal methods to achieve spiritual motives.

In Romans 15:4 you read, "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." The failures of these four in Genesis 27 are recorded for our learning that we might have hope towards faithfulness.

All four failed to submit to God's revealed will, but each for a different reason. The reasons why *they* failed are the same reasons why *we* fail today. If we learn what those reasons are we have the promise of "the patience and comfort of the Scriptures," that we "might have hope" to remain *faithful* rather than follow their *failure*.

#### #1 You Fail To Submit To The Revealed Will Of God On Account Of Your *Flesh*

*Flesh* is the Bible's word for your inherited sin nature.<sup>1</sup> It is the lust within each of us to over-satisfy our physical appetites in sinful ways. It seeks to dominate our lives, preferring physical appetites to spiritual affections.

Isaac submits to his flesh and fails to submit to God's will. "Savory food" is mentioned six times; "game" meat is mentioned seven times; "eating" is mentioned eight times. Isaac was controlled by his fleshly appetites rather than his spiritual affections.

Genesis 27:1 Now it came to pass, when Isaac was old and his eyes were so dim that he could not see, that he called Esau his older son and said to him, "My son." And he answered him, "Here I am."

Genesis 27:2 Then he said, "Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death.

Genesis 27:3 "Now therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me.

Genesis 27:4 "And make me savory food, such as I love, and bring *it* to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die."

Isaac thought he was nearing death, but he was not preparing for death. The "food" he ought to have desired is spiritual. Jesus once told His disciples, (John 4:34) "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."

---

<sup>1</sup>Charles Ryrie, Basic Theology.

Isaac says something everyone ought to consider: "I do not know the day of my death." In a sense, you are always nearing death! Are you preparing for it? Or are you still hunting the savory foods of this temporary life?

Rebekah and Jacob scheme to deceive Isaac. It is interesting to note how easily Jacob is deceived by his senses:

his sight deceives him, since he is blind;  
his sense of touch deceives him;  
his sense of smell deceives him;  
his sense of taste deceives him;  
the evidence of the other four senses is enough to deceive his sense of hearing.

The world and the devil cooperate to deceive *your* senses. If you have a particular weakness in the area of your fleshly appetites, it will be exploited by your Enemy. Isaac sought to indulge his particular lust for food in secret...But he was discovered and deceived! The thing you seek to secretly indulge in is already known to your Enemy and he will use it to deceive you.

God graciously intervenes in Isaac's failure:

Genesis 27:30 Now it happened, as soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting.

Genesis 27:31 He also had made savory food, and brought it to his father, and said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that your soul may bless me."

Genesis 27:32 And his father Isaac said to him, "Who *are* you?" So he said, "I *am* your son, your firstborn, Esau."

Genesis 27:33 Then Isaac trembled exceedingly, and said, "Who? Where *is* the one who hunted game and brought *it* to me? I ate all *of it* before you came, and I have blessed him; *and* indeed he shall be blessed."

Two important things happened to Isaac:

The power of his flesh was broken - he "trembled exceedingly."  
Pastor and author John Phillips writes,

"His poor old frame was shaken all to pieces, the very chair rocked beneath him. It was not just physical infirmity, it was a rude awakening from years of spiritual [stupor]. Isaac was a man suddenly alive to spiritual [truths], horrified at what he had tried to do..."<sup>2</sup>

Secondly, he submitted to the revealed will of God, saying "and indeed he [Jacob] shall be blessed."

You fail to submit to the revealed will of God on account of your flesh. Set your affections on things above rather than seeking to satisfy fleshly appetites.

I'd also like to say a word to husbands and fathers...While you cannot blame Isaac for the failures of his wife and sons, it should be clear that his failure to submit to God set all of this in motion. That can be the case in your home as well...

## #2 You Fail To Submit To The Revealed Will Of God On Account Of Your *Fear*

Rebekah's problem was fear. Anytime you are hanging around outside of rooms, with your ear to the keyhole, you are expressing fear - fear of man rather than fear of God. Rebekah must have been expecting something like this to happen. It is clear she no longer trusted Isaac. Her reasoning was justified, but her fear was not: God was perfectly able to accomplish His will despite Isaac's lack of spirituality, and especially without Rebekah's carnal interference. The fact that her scheme seems to work doesn't mean God was blessing it. Indeed as a result of this scheme Rebekah is forced to send Jacob away to save his life. She tells him, in Genesis 27:42-44,

"...Surely your brother Esau comforts himself concerning you *by intending* to kill you. Now therefore, my son, obey my voice: arise, flee to my brother Laban in Haran. And stay with him a few days, until your brother's fury turns away..."

These "few days" turned into weeks, then months, then years - *twenty years* - and Rebekah never saw her beloved son again in this life.

---

<sup>2</sup>John Phillips, Exploring Genesis, p. 230.

Genesis 27:5 Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt game and to bring *it*.

One commentator suggested that it was a shame Rebekah never knew her mother-in-law, Sarah. Sarah could have told her the danger of listening through the tent walls! And she could have encouraged her to trust in God's sovereignty - even when it seemed that all of God's blessings were about to be taken from your only son! Rebekah could have learned from Sarah what the Apostle Peter tells all wives to learn, to "not be afraid" (1Peter 3:6).

Genesis 27:6 So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, "Indeed I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying,

Genesis 27:7 'Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the LORD before my death.'

Genesis 27:8 "Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you.

Genesis 27:9 "Go now to the flock and bring me from there two choice kids of the goats, and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves.

Genesis 27:10 "Then you shall take *it* to your father, that he may eat *it*, and that he may bless you before his death."

Genesis 27:11 And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Look, Esau my brother *is* a hairy man, and I *am* a smooth-skinned man.

Genesis 27:12 "Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him; and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing."

Genesis 27:13 But his mother said to him, "*Let* your curse *be* on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get *them* for me."

Genesis 27:14 And he went and got *them* and brought *them* to his mother, and his mother made savory food, such as his father loved.

Genesis 27:15 Then Rebekah took the choice clothes of her elder son Esau, which *were* with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son.

Genesis 27:16 And she put the skins of the kids of the goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck.

Genesis 27:17 Then she gave the savory food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.

I sympathize with Rebekah. Her husband was a spiritual jerk at this time in his life. He wasn't communicating with her; they had a strained, distrustful relationship. They didn't pray together; they didn't make decisions together; they shared no common interests; they disagreed on how to raise their children.

I sympathize with you if you find yourself in a similar situation. I sympathize with *my* wife when *she* finds herself in this situation! But I cannot excuse Rebekah's behavior. She ought to have trusted in God's sovereignty rather than scheming to safeguard His will. Her carnal methods cannot be justified - even though her motivation seems spiritual.

It is hard to be like Sarah, isn't it women? Yet she is the woman that you are told to be like! She submitted to God by submitting to her husband. When that decision to submit put her in difficult circumstances, she "was not afraid," because she feared God more than man.

This doesn't mean you should be physically abused, or stand idly by if your children are being physically abused. It doesn't mean you have to sin if your husband wants you to. In those cases you must obey God rather than your husband.

It *does* mean that you will need to trust in the absolute sovereignty of God to overrule your husband. If not, you will fail in your submission on account of your fear. You will become a scheming, conniving, deceiving woman - all with the appearance of spirituality, but without the substance of it.

You may be in a less than ideal marriage. Look beyond your husband to God, submitting to your husband as unto the Lord.

### #3 You Fail To Submit To The Revealed Will Of God On Account Of Your *Fealty*

"Fealty" is a word no one much uses anymore, but it is the very best word to describe Jacob's reason for failing to submit to God. Fealty is an intense loyalty and subordination to another person. Because of his intense loyalty and subordination to his mother, Jacob failed to submit to God. You see, he should have refused to go along with Rebekah's plan. His loyalty and subordination to his mother is not commendable since it involves him in her sin and causes him to sin. Ephesians 6:1 says, "children obey your parents *in the Lord*..."

Genesis 27:18 So he went to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?"

Genesis 27:19 Jacob said to his father, "I *am* Esau your firstborn; I have done just as you told me; please arise, sit and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me."

Genesis 27:20 But Isaac said to his son, "How *is it* that you have found *it* so quickly, my son?" And he said, "Because the LORD your God brought *it* to me."

Genesis 27:21 Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you *are* really my son Esau or not."

Genesis 27:22 So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, and he felt him and said, "The voice *is* Jacob's voice, but the hands *are* the hands of Esau."

Genesis 27:23 And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him.

Genesis 27:24 Then he said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He said, "I *am*."

Genesis 27:25 He said, "Bring *it* near to me, and I will eat of my son's game, so that my soul may bless you." So he brought *it* near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank.

In verse twelve Jacob said, "perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him." He didn't only *seem* to be a deceiver - he was one! He tells five lies in these few words, even using God's Name in conjunction with one of them.

Jacob puts on a disguise, trying to fool his father and receive the blessing. We need to be careful that we are not putting on a *spiritual* disguise, trying to fool our Father to receive His blessing.

Genesis 27:26 Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near now and kiss me, my son."

Genesis 27:27 And he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his clothing, and blessed him and said: "Surely, the smell of my son *is* like the smell of a field Which the LORD has blessed.

Genesis 27:28 Therefore may God give you Of the dew of heaven, Of the fatness of the earth, And plenty of grain and wine.

Genesis 27:29 Let peoples serve you, And nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, And let your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed *be* everyone who curses you, And blessed *be* those who bless you!"

Here is something interesting. Isaac was out of the will of God, serving the appetites of his flesh, yet he was anointed by God to speak the prophetic blessing of God upon his son. We have seen many gifted evangelists and teachers fail in their personal lives. It is indeed tragic. We say, "How could God use them when they were doing that?" While I don't want to minimize anyone's actual practice of sin, I would ask, "How can God use *me*?" "How can God use *you*?" The truth is that we have the treasure of the gospel in earthen vessels. God's Word is greater than the person who delivers it. One of the Church's favorite sayings has ever been, "But for the grace of God, there go I." The Apostle Paul, near the end of his ministry, spoke of himself as "the chief of sinners."

"Fealty" is not a common word, but it is a common reason why we fail to submit to God. When other relationships begin to take precedence over our relationship with Jesus Christ we are headed for trouble. Make sure that you cultivate relationships that encourage your walk with the Lord.

#### #4 You Fail To Submit To The Revealed Will Of God If You Are *Faithless*

God the Holy Spirit describes Esau in Hebrews 12:16 by using the word "profane." He was a "profane" person. That doesn't mean he used profanity. Profane means "outside the temple." It was a word used to describe people who were unconverted, who could not be admitted to worship because they were unbelievers - outside of the things of God. Esau was without saving faith - faithless. No wonder he failed to submit to God. He should have refused to go along with Isaac's subversion. More than that, he should have submitted to God's will to bless his brother first as God's good will for all of them.

Genesis 27:34 When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, "Bless me; me also, O my father!"

Genesis 27:35 But he said, "Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing."

Genesis 27:36 And *Esau* said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing!" And he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?"

Genesis 27:37 Then Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Indeed I have made him your master, and all his brethren I have given to him as servants; with grain and wine I have sustained him. What shall I do now for you, my son?"

Genesis 27:38 And Esau said to his father, "Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me; me also, O my father!" And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

Genesis 27:39 Then Isaac his father answered and said to him: "Behold, your dwelling shall be of the fatness of the earth, And of the dew of heaven from above.

Genesis 27:40 By your sword you shall live, And you shall serve your brother; And it shall come to pass, when you become restless, That you shall break his yoke from your neck."

Esau sought only the outward blessings of his father. He complained about losing his birthright, but he had willingly sold it for a meal of red stew. Spiritual things meant nothing to him. He wanted to be master, to have others serve him, and be sustained with grain and wine.

There are many in the Church who are seeking only the outward blessings of our heavenly Father. They attend, but they are really "profane" - outside the temple. How can you identify them?

They want to be their own master;

They want others to serve them;

They want to be sustained by the material wealth of this world.

Ultimately, they refuse to submit to the will of God as revealed in His Word.



Make sure none of those characteristics describe you!

### Conclusion

If any one of these people had submitted to God, all of them would have been spared the experiences of Chapter Twenty-seven. One person *can* make a difference when they choose to submit to the revealed will of God.

You might just as well be that person!