

# SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

## LESSON 9



## JACOB RECEIVES THE BLESSING

*Scripture Text: Genesis 27:1-38*

In our lesson today Jacob, with the help of Rebekah, tricks Isaac and receives the blessing intended for Esau. It is a dramatic story. Our characters here were ideal people, but they had common weaknesses as we all do. None sought God's help or an understanding of His plan. As a result, this whole family was torn apart. A full reliance upon God's will and leadership might have brought peace of mind, love, devotion, genuine happiness, and God's will carried out as well.

The blessing brought with it special gifts of the fertile land, full victory over all enemies, and superiority and rule over neighboring tribes and clans. This made Jacob headman in the fullest sense. The blessing was automatic and irrevocable. Isaac's faith enabled him to give a true blessing.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.*

—*Hebrews 11:20*

### DAILY READINGS:

Mon.—**Genesis 27:35-46** Esau's hatred of Jacob.

Tue.—**Romans 9:10-21** Jacob was already chosen.

Wed.—**Isaiah 1:5-20** Jacob's cleansing need is as ours.

Thu.—**Zephaniah 3:8-13** God saves His people from deceit.

Fri.—**Genesis 37:23-36** Jacob deceived by his sons.

**Devotional Reading:** **Galatians 6:1-9** We reap as we sow.

### God's Plan

**Genesis 27:1-4** Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim . . . he called Esau . . . I know not the day of my death—but he felt that it was near. **Take me some venison**—Esau's hunting and cooking of venison had brought a special closeness to his father (**Genesis 25:28**)—**that my soul may bless thee**—not his lips only. It was to be a heartfelt, God-given blessing, his dying blessing. As father, he was the spiritual leader of the household, its priest.

Jacob was God's choice to carry on the covenant which had come through Abraham and Isaac and was to go on forever. God did not choose him because he stole the blessing. Sin does not bring God's favor. Jacob was already chosen before he was born (**Genesis 25:23**). Thus it was God's will that Jacob have the place given him in this blessing. He had His own way to place the blessing where He wanted it. We must remember that those people were living before Moses' Law, and they had little direction from God. This happening fitted into God's plan in spite of man's faults, not because of them. Had Rebekah and Jacob done right, God still would have carried out His plan. But He turned their wrong to suit His purpose, as He always can do. Why did God not reject Jacob because of his wrong? If God rejected sinners, no one would be accepted of Him, for **all have sinned** (**Romans 3:23**). But in receiving, He cleanses them. Thank God!

### The Trick

**Genesis 27:5-15** Rebekah spake unto Jacob . . . I heard—the plan did not suit her, for she loved Jacob best—he stayed close to home, no doubt accounting for the special closeness to his mother. **Fetch . . . two good**

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**kids of the goats; and I will make . . . savory meat . . . thou shalt bring it to thy father . . . that he may bless thee**—a bold scheme, a wicked deception.

Was Jacob's action right? It included selfishness, deception, and lying. These are never right. Even though his mother came up with the scheme and encouraged him, Jacob also was guilty, as all of us are responsible for our choices and acts. The moment our hearts consent to the wrong, we share the guilt.

### He Blessed Him

**Genesis 27:16-29 She put the skins . . . upon his hands, and . . . neck**—to appear to be Esau who was hairy. She put Esau's clothing on Jacob. In this disguise, Jacob took the food to Isaac. Jacob said, **I am Esau . . . bless me**—he carried out his mother's scheme. He lied. It worked. **He discerned him not . . . so he blessed him.** Isaac's blessing promised plenty of good things, that the people and nations would serve him, and he would be lord over his brethren—be master and ruler.

Isaac's blessing was a true blessing. It was from God. It was beyond Isaac's power to make it. After he gave it, it was beyond his power to change it. The transaction was legal and binding. Isaac could only say, "Yea, and he shall be blessed."

Faith was the line by which Isaac brought the blessing from God. (**See Memory Verse.**) He did not know in his own mind what to say. He, of himself, could not tell what was to come in the future. He did not make the mistake of falling for this deception fully on his own. God had a part in the blessing going to Jacob. God had said the eldest would serve the youngest (**Genesis 25:23**). Faith is not courage to face difficulties. It is not imagination to see a beautiful ending. It is not optimism to look on the bright side. Faith is belief that reaches clear to God and makes contact with Him. Through that contact, God told Isaac what to say. For that reason the blessing was true. It was God's Word, and it came to pass.

### A Bitter Cry

**Genesis 27:30-38 Jacob was yet scarce gone out** when Esau came. Did not God have a part in this precise timing? The deception was uncovered, but too late. **When Esau heard . . . he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry.** Now Esau reaped from his act of selling his birthright. Because of that he really had no claim to his father's chief blessing. Isaac gave Esau a blessing also, but it was less than that given to Jacob.

What sorrow and despair his cry, **Bless me, even me also, O my father. Hast thou but one blessing?** This is a type of the final cry of everyone who sells his birthright, of every lost soul cut off from God. Esau CHOSE that result the day he valued his birthright as one meal of lentils.

What a tragic state prevailed in this home because of the wrongdoing! Isaac's heart was broken and his plans in disarray. Esau was hurt and enraged because of his foolish act that caused his downfall. He was angry with his mother, his brother, and himself. Rebekah was a mother who had to stand back and see her family torn apart and hear the shrieks of rage and disappointment and wild laments. It is a pathetic picture. Jacob took full possession of all that mattered for the days ahead.

God has done all that is possible to save every person from such a fate. He warns us and waits, giving opportunity after opportunity. He has made a way of salvation to all in the death of Christ. He has sent His Holy Spirit to draw us to Him. The whole system is bound together in one. Hold on to your birthright, and the blessing of the Heavenly Father will be yours.

### JUST A THOUGHT

**In our time, a wedding is where they take each other for better or for worse—but not for long.**