

First Southern Wednesday Night Bible Study - February 26, 2020

Rebekah's Sons - Genesis 25:19-34

Introduction

1. The purposes of God
 - the blessing continues
2. Abraham had vertical problems - Isaac and sons have horizontal problems
3. Two stories - Birth story... and soup story

I. Twin Sons

Esau

Name - press/ squeeze/ red/ hairy
 Loved - wild life/ uncertain livelihood
 Character - childish, couldn't see tomorrow, manly man
 Philosophy - materialist, physical desires and appetites
 Parent - Isaac loved him the best

Jacob (Israel)

Name - heal-grabber/ schemer/ supplanter
 Loved - tents, settled life of a shepherd, quiet, orderly and respectable
 Character - schemer
 Philosophy - dreamer, visions
 Parent - Rebekah loved him the best

Which is worse? - the "profane" person... materialist... or the opportunist, who takes advantage of a person when they are down?

*No indication that Esau knew that he was deceived

II. A Series of Conflicts

1. Disputes of Jacob

Jacob and Esau

Jacob and Laban

Jacob's dispute with Rachel over who's fault it is that they have no kids (30:1-2)

Jacob's dispute with sons over how to live in Canaan

With God - 32:22-29

2. Disputes of Isaac - wells in chapter 26

3. Birth-order disputes

Birthright - here

Blessing - chapter 27

4. "Birthright"

-a double portion of the goods - Dt 21:17 - *there is money involved* - ever heard of children fighting over inheritance?

-sit at the head of the table

-at Heb. 2:16 Esau is called a "profane" person

5. About power, position in the family, money (a lot of money is at stake*), deception, fertility

6. Destined to fight - from the beginning -*hmmm*

7. Blatant preference of parents
8. In the last analysis this story is about God
 - He designated a “heel” grabber
 - He struggles with Jacob until he’s crippled (32:22-32)
 - God settles on the unworthy and unvalued - 1 Cor. 1:27-29
 - God uses the Crucified One as His way to make all things new (the broken one)

III. Revelation about God

1. Scandalous for God to choose the younger son in this culture - says:
 - these are not made up stories
 - that God runs the show
 - He is not bound by our rules of birth-order and blessing
2. Unexpected birth - she is barren - prayers are answered (she was childless for 20 years
 -
 - 25:20, 26)
 - God makes His own laws
3. They fight... - we are not equal in this world... God has made some decisions before we are born. Can God still work His work in this evil and conflicted world?
4. Jacob is an expression of God’s graciousness
 - God does not choose the Jews because they are sinless... He chose the Jews before Jacob was born. Therefore, the Jews cannot claim ethnic superiority.
5. *In the story you see the unfolding work of God with this trickster
 - from trickster to humble servant - achieved through a series of conflicts
 - he never fully rids himself from the old Jacob, but he surely changed from the young man who had merited the name of “deceiver” to “Israel”
6. Also... if God says this will happen, it doesn’t mean that He wills it that way He is just reporting

IV. The Soup Story - devotional

1. The Story
2. The Swap
 - soup for birthright - “lentils” are beans (cheap)
 - exchange
 - one expensive bowl of soup

Gave up	Gained
Eternal	Temporal
Meaningful	Shallow
Future	Now
Self-Respect	A moment’s pleasure
3. The Sin
 - Who is the greater sinner?
 - The fool?
 - The thief?
 - Though swindled, Esau is still responsible
 - What Esau lost
4. The Spirit

- of neglect
- of good for best
- what you can lose in a single decision

Mistake!!! - last week taught that Bethuel is the father of Rebekah

First:

Abraham > Isaac > Jacob
Isaac/ Rebekah
Jacob/ Rachel

Second:

Bethuel is father to Rebekah (24:15, 24; 25:20)
Laban is father to Rachel (28:2) - Rebekah's brother