



## The Trickster Blessed

July 10

**INTRODUCTION:** Genesis traces the line of promise from Gen 3:15 all the way to Isaac and Jacob in Gen 27. While deceptive, it is the promise that is emphasized. Do we value it?

**REVIEW:** The Bible Project, [Genesis](#) (be cautious with other videos)

**KEY POINT:** family troubles, deception, blessings, promise

**A.M. SERMON RECAP** (Gen 25:19–34, Promise Sought)

- How does God use prayer?
- Why is favouritism unwise in parenting, life and ministry?
- Who are we like, what's our character? Knowing our strengths and weaknesses, how can we change?
- While underhanded, what did Jacob value above all else? Do we?

**P.M. SERMON RECAP** (Gen 26:1–33, Promise Despised)

- Why must we make the faith of our father's our own?
- Like father, like son- Discuss.
- How are we poor witness when we fear man vs. trust God?
- Experiencing the power of God's grace, how are we called to be meek?

**READ:** Genesis 26:34—28:9 [a long read], Heb 12:15–17

### QUESTIONS:

1. *Note this passage is bookended by 2 passages on Esau's wives.*
2. How do his choice of wives show how he despises the promise, the faith and family of his parents?
3. 1 Cor 7- Why are we called to marry in the Lord?
4. **Why is dysfunction in families always a result of sin? What is the remedy?**
5. **Think of a triangle, a simple illustration of a 2x relationship + God. How far apart are we from each other if we are far away from God?**
6. Why is it an important detail for the story that Isaac is old and near blind?

7. Nearing death, how was a blessing akin to a last will?
8. Despite Esau's follies, why is he still Isaac's favourite? Why is it foolish to be blind to a person (a child's) sin?
9. **How does Isaac have an inner blindness to God's purpose in Jacob? Why doesn't Rebekah?**
10. Eph 5:22–33; 1 Pe 3:1–7- While she speaks to Isaac at the end, how does this episode go against God's will for husbands and wives, even general relationships.
11. *What follows is lies and deception. However, God uses all actions—good, bad and ugly—to further His purposes.*
12. **Why is such underhandedness not Christlike? 2 Cor 4:2**
13. While the end doesn't justify the means, why is Rebekah doing this, what does she see?
14. **How do we show/not that we value the Promised One?**
15. **Recount the nail-biting story of deception in your own words.**
16. How does Isaac transfer the promise of Abraham to Jacob in this blessing?
17. **On the one hand, how can we sympathize with Esau, yet on the other hand, not?**
18. **How is Esau a picture of the wicked at judgement day?**
19. Until Esau's hatred abated, what does Rebekah recommend?
20. *This act will trouble the family for years.* Even if we are forgiven for an act, why/how may there still be consequences?
21. **What alternative rationale does she have? What trouble had the unbelieving wives made for the family? (26:35; 27:46)**
22. *Finally, Isaac sees that Jacob is the child of promise and his interests must be met.*
23. How does Esau try to win back the favour of his parents through—another—marriage? Who ought we to please? How do we please the Lord when choosing a spouse?
24. *This will be the last we read of the parents apart from Isaac's death.*
25. **How does this episode teach of Christ?**

**NEXT WEEK:** July 17- Jacob's Children and Prosperity, Gen 29:31–30:43