

“FALSE REPENTANCE”

GENESIS 27:30—45

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INTRODUCTION

Review the background of this scene.

Here we see strange and strong emotions:

Isaac—an old man trembling (v. 33)

Esau—a mature man crying like a baby and screaming like a woman (vv. 34, 38)

Rebekah—A mother fearful for the lives of her two sons due to her own deceitfulness.

Why the hoopla? They discovered their error, but it was too late!

They were reaping as they had sown.

I. ISAAC’S PERPLEXITY (30-33)

Conflicting emotions: Anger, grief, concern, resentment (note “trembled with a great trembling”)

Here we see the displeasure of God, and the betrayal of Abraham’s trust.

Yet, faith is still triumphant—v. 33b: “Yes, and he shall be blessed.”

II. ESAU’S PLIGHT (34-38)

The “strong” one is dominated by the “weak” one.

Don’t feel too sorry for him; he had planned to defraud Jacob—despite the oracle of God and the sale of his birthright.

A. Bless me, even me also, O my father (34).

B. Comment of Jacob’s rightful name—one who supplants; took both the birthright, and now the blessing (36).

C. He has been made your master. (37)

1. His relatives (brothers) are to be his servants.
2. He is to be sustained with grain and new wine.
3. What is left for you, my son?

D. Esau’s bitter plea (38)

1. Just one blessing?
2. “Bless me, even me also, O my father.”
3. Loud weeping

III. ISAAC’S PROPHECY (39-40)—A mixed “blessing”

A. Poor Agriculture (39)

1. “From”—i.e. “away from” (contrast v. 28—from the dew of heaven—partaking of it)
2. Dwelling apart from the earth’s fatness—i.e. fertility.
3. Away from the dew of heaven which would help grow crops.
Could also hint at absence of divine blessings from above.

B. Warlike culture (40)

1. Living by the sword—many adversaries; need for continual self-defense.
2. Service to Jacob—not willingly.
3. Restlessness eventually leads to tearing off Jacob’s yoke. [Edom’s future relation with Israel]

C. A fitting destiny—the freedom to live “unblessed” (39) and “untamed” (40).

IV. ESAU’S PLOT (41)—once his father dies

A. His “grudge against Jacob due to the lost blessing [Note “the blessing with which his father had blessed him”—indeed a “mixed blessing”]

- B. He will kill Jacob once his father’s “days of mourning” come.
 - 1. First he kept it to himself—lit. “said in his heart.”
 - 2. But, as usual it eventually came out.
- V. REBEKAH’S PLAN (42-45)
 - A. Heard of the plot (42)
 - B. Obey me and flee to Haran—to my brother, Laban (43)
 - 1. Obeying her had led to this problem in the first place.
 - 2. Her brother, Laban, developed a history of deception himself—and with Jacob!
 - C. The “few days” turned out to be much longer (v. 44-45)
 - 1. Either the “fury” did not quickly turn away, he was long in “forgetting,” or else Jacob just became caught up in the tangled affairs in Haran, or Rebekah did not promptly send for him.
 - 2. At any rate, sin always turns out to have more complications than we could imagine.
 - 3. She could not imagine losing both sons “in one day.” (45)
 - 4. She makes no mention to him of finding a wife there but does to Isaac in v. 46.
 - 1. Isaac, as the father, must suggest the move to Haran.
 - 2. She does not mention to Isaac her fear of Jacob’s death.
 - 5. She outwitted herself, for she never saw Jacob again; she should have modeled patient trust and integrity.

CONCLUSION

“Let God be true, though every man be a liar.”

God establishes His truth in the ruin of man’s lies.

Notice the just retribution”

- On Isaac—His plans defeated.
- On Rebekah—her diplomatic victory complete, but she lost her son!
- On Esau—he lost the blessing of the firstborn.
- On Jacob
 - 1. Flight from home—not to see his mother again.
 - 2. Demotion to the position of rigorous service for 20 years.
 - 3. Privation, anxiety, fraud, want
 - 4. Jacob was more cruelly deceived by his own sons in the case of Joseph.

We tend to feel especially sad for Esau, but see Heb. 12:17—“He sought a place of repentance” but did not find it. He merely wished to undo what had happened and regain the blessing. But, the issue was beyond recall!

- His sorrow was not godly sorrow (II Cor. 7:9-10), or he would have sought fulfillment of the divine oracle through Jacob.
- Esau was stung, disappointed, fooled, outwitted, but not changed.
- He never accepted God’s plan or sought His blessing in His way. [**Illus.—child raised in Chr. Home who rebels and “sells his birthright for a bowl of soup”!**]

Many in their dying hours or in their dreary solitude are startled to find that they have made a miserable bargain!

- They gained the world but lost their souls!
- They regret the past and have terror of the future.

Don’t you wait until it is too late! Don’t wait until the blessing is gone forever.

Don’t wait until your soul is forever lost.

Don’t wait until your opportunities are forever gone!

Prov. 1:24-31—the despised voice of wisdom—Hear these solemn words!