

Bridgeway Community Church
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I Saw Esau

Take Hold of Your Blessing

INTRODUCTION

The Broadway play Hamilton was about one of our country's founding fathers, who tried to inspire hope for the future of America. One song from that play is about Hamilton not wanting to "miss his shot" at changing the new world.

Question: what about your shot? The shot about your purpose, your plan, your blessings.

"Today...I am going to talk about what happens when you feel like you've missed your shot at success."

Genesis 27:1-4 NIV84

When Isaac was old and his eyes were so weak that he could no longer see, he called for Esau, his older son and said to him, "My son." "Here I am", he answered. ² Isaac said, "I am now an old man and don't know the day of my death. ³ Now then, get your weapons -- your quiver and bow--and go out to the open country to hunt some wild game for me. ⁴ Prepare me the kind of tasty food I like and bring it to me to eat, so that I may give you my BLESSING before I die."

Father Isaac tells Esau to go catch him a good meal, prepare it, and bring it to him. Then he would perform the traditional Jewish ceremonial blessing from the Father to the Firstborn.

Remember that Jacob, the younger of the twins, had already swindled the birthright from his older brother, Esau

The **birthright** was *the rights, the benefits*, and the *authority* that came with being the firstborn. Unfortunately, Esau gave that up when he sold it for a bowl of soup

But the **BLESSING** is different than the **BIRTHRIGHT**.

Question: What is the Blessing?

THE BLESSING is the formal transfer of anointing & affirmation from the father to the son. It is ceremonially & parental approval of the father over the son for the rest of his life.

The BIRTHRIGHT had to do with **Position**. The BLESSING had to do with **Prosperity**.

The BIRTHRIGHT had to do with **Authority**. The BLESSING had to do with **Anointing**.

THE BLESSING was that “**positive confirmation**” over the son given by the father.

Genesis 27:5-10 NIV84

Now Rebekah was listening as Isaac spoke to his son Esau. When Esau left for the open country to hunt game and bring it back, ⁶ Rebekah said to her son Jacob, “Look, I overheard your father say to your brother Esau, ⁷ ‘Bring me some game and prepare me some tasty food to eat, so that I may give you my blessing in the presence of the Lord before I die.’ ⁸ Now, my son, listen carefully and do what I tell you: ⁹ Go out to the flock and bring me two choice young goats, so I can prepare some tasty food for your father, just the way he likes it. ¹⁰ Then take it to your father to eat, so that he may give you his blessing before he dies.”

“Here, we have a wife working against the will of her husband!”

“Here, we have a mother who is manipulating her children!”

Jacob doesn't resist participating in his mother's deception either.

Genesis 27:11-12 NIV84

Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, ‘But my brother is a hairy man, and I'm a man with smooth skin. ¹² What if my father touches me? I would appear to be tricking him and would bring down a curse on myself rather than a blessing.

Genesis 27:13 NIV84

His mother said to him, "My son, let the curse fall on me. Just do what I say; go and get them for me."

Pastor DA's version of verse 13: "Boy, be quiet and just go do what I told you and I will handle the rest."

So Jacob went out, got the two goats; his mother dressed him up like Esau, covered him with goat hair so his skin wouldn't feel so smooth, and then sent him in with the meal for his father

1. Beware of what's up at home while you're away!

Our hard work OUTSIDE the house, doesn't always match what's going on INSIDE the house.

Here, you have a wife deceiving her husband

Here, you have a son deceiving his father

Here, you have a brother stealing from his own twin brother

Application: Let me encourage you to get these matters settled legally - especially around money, wills, and property - before your loved ones die, so there are no disputes later...because "money will make people act funny, honey!"

2. Beware of the enemy who is trying to steal your blessing from under your nose.

John 10:10 NIV84

[Jesus speaking] The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Ephesians 6:11 NIV84

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

In other words, the devil is always scheming!

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 NIV84

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. ¹⁵ It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

“Angel of light” & “Servants of Righteousness” but it is all a masquerade.

“My goal today is not to make you fearful of deceitful family members, of friends, or even the devil. I simply want you to not be naive of the “Jacobs and Rebekahs” who will take what is yours, if you’re not aware.”

"This is simply a sober warning that doing your father's will doesn't mean that you can be impervious to the spiritual warfare to steal away every blessing that God wants to give you."

Mother Rebekah sends in Jacob to her husband and **WE WITNESS 3 BOLD FACE LIES:**

1. “I am Esau your firstborn” (v. 19)

Genesis 27:19 NIV84

Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat some of my game so that you may give me your blessing.”

“In other words, Jacob’s lie was revealing that he was what some would call a poser! **POSERS** are people who lie about who they are.”

“Instead of being the best version of themselves they are trying to be a better of you.”

This tip is free - “People who are the loudest about their disapproval are usually the ones doing the very thing they’re obnoxiously loud about!”

2. “The Lord your God gave me success” (v.20)

Genesis 27:20 NIV84

Isaac asked his son, “How did you find it so quickly, my son?” “The Lord your God gave me success,” he replied.

In this lie we see Jacob being a SPIRITUALIZER!

SPIRITUALIZERS! - People who lie on God by using His name to justify their bad behavior

Jacob said, “The Lord **your** God gave me success” which was a flat out lie.

The truth was, “Mom and I are scheming to steal the blessing from Esau by lying to you.”

“Church people will often use spiritual language to cover up their offenses instead of owning what is true about them.”

“Spiritualizers can’t seem to speak straight and everything is God this and God that.”

“People will overuse spiritual language to lie or get what they want!”

3. “I am” (v. 24)

Genesis 27:23-26 NIV84

He [Isaac] did not recognize him [Jacob], for his hands were hairy like those of his brother Esau; so he blessed him. ²⁴ “Are you really my son Esau?” he asked. “I am,” he replied. ²⁵ Then he said, “My son, bring me some of your game to eat, so that I may give you my blessing.” Jacob brought it to him and he ate; and he brought some wine and he drank. ²⁶ Then his father Isaac said to him, “Come here, my son, and kiss me.” ²⁷ So he went to him and kissed him.

Question: Who else do you know in scripture that betrayed a loved one with a kiss?

Answer: Judas!

Peter lied/denied Jesus 3 times and Judas betrayed him with a kiss.

Here we see it all in Jacob.

He lies 3 times and now betrays his brother & father with a kiss!

KISSERS - these are people who are cold enough to look you in your face while turning the knife in your gut!

Who is the innocent party here? Esau! As a result, Esau misses his shot! He misses his shot at getting his father's full blessing!

Genesis 27:28-29 NIV84

[Isaac speaking a blessing on Jacob] "May God give you of heaven's dew and of earth's richness--an abundance of grain and new wine. ²⁹ May nations serve you and peoples bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may the sons of your mother bow down to you. May those who curse you be cursed and those who bless you be blessed."

Read in Genesis 27:39-40 Esau's second rate blessing:

Genesis 27:39-40 NIV84

[Isaac speaking a blessing on Esau] "Your dwelling will be away from the earth's richness, away from the dew of heaven above. ⁴⁰ You will live by the sword and you will serve your brother. But when you grow restless, you will throw his yoke from off your neck."

Basically, you [Esau] will live in the desert and fight for everything you can get...oh, and you will serve your brother [Jacob], the very one who swindled and stole from you.

"How unfair is that!"

Question: What do you do when life is unfair? What do you do when you've missed your shot? What do you do when life is NOT a beach, but a desert? What do you do when Plan A collapses and crumbles before your very eyes?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

when living in the desert like Esau.

“These applications are NOT for the Jacobs who have received ill-gotten gain. You have received your reward already. These applications are for those who haven’t received the blessings and privileges that you had hoped for. These applications are for the marginalized, the lost, the lonely, the left out.”

1. MAKE THE MOST OF THE POSITION YOU’RE IN NOW, AND LEAVE THE FUTURE TO GOD!

Esau hoped for his father’s blessing, but didn’t get it. He worked for his father’s blessing, but didn’t achieve it. He did everything right, and still lost it!

“Sometimes you can do everything right, but God’s will is different than what you expected, but we gotta believe that God is still sovereign and God is still in charge. We must trust that He will make all things right, in time!”

Hebrews 11:20 NIV84

By faith Isaac blessed Jacob AND ESAU in regard to their future.

“Esau was blessed too, but he focused on what he had lost instead of what he had left!”

“Focus on what you have, NOT on what you don’t have. TAKE HOLD OF THE BLESSING you do have or you will lose that too! Whatever blessing you have, TAKE HOLD OF IT and don’t lose it.”

- Just because you lost one spouse, don’t lose the one you have now
- Just because you lost the last job, don’t lose this one
- Just because you lost one business, it doesn’t mean you have to lose this one too

“Don’t focus on what you’ve lost; focus on what you have left!”

2. MAKE BITTERNESS YOUR ENEMY, NOT OTHERS!

Esau let his bitterness get the best of him (*We'll talk more about that next week!*)

Instead of making bitterness his enemy, he made his brother his enemy and we make people our enemy, but remember:

Ephesians 6:12 NIV84
For our struggle is not against flesh and blood...

“Don’t allow bitterness to eat you up from the inside out!”

3. MAKE PLAN B YOUR NEW PLAN A!

Question: How do you live successfully when you have missed your shot, your standing, or your opportunity for the success that you’d hoped for?

POINT - Your Plan A may have been just that...YOUR plan A!

Your Plan B may have always been God’s Plan A!

Isaiah 55:8-9 NIV
“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. ⁹ “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

That was MY “Plan A” - to play college/pro football, not God’s! Ministry was God’s “Plan A” for me!

“Sometimes we think that only the special ones get the blessing of Jacob.”

“The best thing you can do is be a man or a woman of grace realizing that you’re not a Jacob...because you actually deserve it. You’re a Jacob because of grace and mercy because you did everything to NOT deserve it!”

“But God has a way to bless ***CROOKED JACOBS*** and ***SWINDLED ESAUS***.”

“So TAKE HOLD of your blessing and live your Best Life you can with what you’ve been dealt!”

While Isaac, the earthly father couldn’t see his son Esau, the good news is God the heavenly father sees you.