

Insolence toward God's will

Genesis 27:1-40

"In assessing the importance of this episode, we need to guard against two extremes: either to condemn the characters entirely, without any recognition of their better motives, or to excuse them at the expense of true morality... 'On the one hand, we may be tempted to extenuate or excuse the sin of those who are taking part with God, and seeking to fulfill his purpose; and, in so doing, we may run the risk of compromising God's holy law, and lowering our own sense of truth and right. Or again, on the other hand, we may allow our just indignation against the faults into which we see the professing people of God betrayed, to carry us too far in the direction of an unjust and uncharitable judgment of their whole profession. We may thus strengthen in ourselves and others a prejudice, not only against the godly, but against their godliness itself, such as may be anything but conducive to the spiritual prosperity either of our own souls or of theirs.' The truth of the matter, though we do not like to admit it, is that the characters are very much like ourselves. The point is that the sovereign will of God is done, in spite of our or any other person's opposition to it." Boice

- I. In dealing with the many problems we face in our relationships as followers of Jesus Christ, be it in the church, in marriage or with one another is the challenge of dying to self and being unified in making God's will a priority over our own. The problems that existed in Isaac and Rebekah's home resulted from two hearts that lacked a unified focus on God and His will for their sons Esau and Jacob. Isaac's love for Esau overruled and replaced his desire to obey God's will, and Rebekah's love for Jacob ignored God's ability to fulfill His will His way. The mess they created through manipulation, lying, and deception could have proven to be much more disastrous if God's grace had not intervened to make sure His will prevailed to assure the birth of both the nation of Israel and His Son Jesus Christ. We too are in danger of defying Almighty God when the affections of the heart outweigh the affections of God's heart. Therefore, it is better to die to self and let God have His way. His ways are always much better than the mess we can create from trying to live life our way.

Gen. 27:1-26

Gen. 25:23, 28

1 Peter 3:15 *But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord.*

- II. God makes it very clear to mankind that there is no one righteous in his sight for all have sinned and fall short of His glory (Rom. 3:23). He cannot and will not accept anyone into his kingdom unless they are forgiven, justified, redeemed, and made holy through being born again, which can only come about through belief in the gospel. So what is the connection between belief in the gospel and how Esau and Jacob lived their lives? Esau, though he had all the benefits of the offer of grace through faith, chose love for self over love for God and all that that would have meant for him, even though he was not to carry the covenant promises of Abraham. Jacob on the other hand, as sinful and imperfect as he was, chose to believe God, which opened the door for God to deepen his faith for the sake of His covenant with him and his descendants. God loves to take imperfect believers and conform them into the likeness of His Son (Rom. 8:29). What a privilege to have Him work in our lives the way He does!

Gen. 27:27-29

Rom. 9:10-14

Eph. 2:8-9

Rebekah = "ensnarer"

Jacob = "supplanter"

- III. The interaction between Isaac and his sons opens our eyes to the power of God to work for the good of those who love him and have been called according to his purpose (Rom. 8:28). God allowed Isaac, Rebekah, and Jacob to disobey His revealed will, but not to the detriment of His sovereign will. It shows us that God is in complete control, we aren't. The consequences of their selfishness, lack of prayer and total disregard for trusting God to work out the details for his glory and their blessings no doubt led to a godly sorrow that brought them to repentance (2 Cor. 7:10). Unfortunately, the negative consequences of their disobedience could have been avoided if they would have just kept their eyes on Him (Heb. 12:2).

Gen. 27:30-40

Jn. 12:24

Heb. 11:20

Heb. 12:15-17

Prov 16:9 *In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.*

Prov 19:21 *Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.*

Prov 21:30 *There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD.*