



Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil. Proverbs 3:7



Read Genesis 25:19-34. Jacob chose to exploit Esau's weakness for his own benefit. We will see in future lessons, that Jacob reaped bitter consequences for his actions. Consider ways in your own life that you have taken (or have been tempted to take) matters in your own hands for personal gain? How did that work out for you?

### *The gospel in the story:*



A deepening understanding of the gospel leads to a deeper understanding of the depravity of our own hearts, and therefore our need for salvation. It would seem that God is trying to emphasize that in the way He selects unworthy recipients like Jacob to receive His grace as he builds a nation that will bless the entire world.

### *Application*

#### *Head:* **What did we learn?**

Q: Who are Isaac and Rebekah? A: Isaac is Abraham's son, and Rebekah is his wife

Q: How long had Isaac and Rebekah been married when this story begins? A: 20 years

Q: Why didn't they have any children yet? A: Rebekah was not able to have children

Q: What happened when Isaac prayed for a child? A: God answered the prayer with twins

Q: What were the names of the twins? A: Esau the firstborn who was red and hairy, and loved to hunt, and Jacob who loved to stay among the tents.

Q: What did God tell Rebekah about the twins? A: That the older would serve the younger.

Q: How did Jacob obtain Esau's birthright? A: By taking advantage of Esau's weakness.

Q: Did God approve of Jacob's method for obtaining the birthright? A: No (though it doesn't say it in the story, we see that Jacob experienced many bad consequences for his sin).

#### *Heart :* **Memory verse**

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#### *Hands:* **How does this affect the way I live my life?**

Jacob was going to become the leader of Esau no matter what, because God had ordained it. Yet Jacob had a choice to either demonstrate love and graciousness to his brother, or not. Unfortunately he chose the latter, which shows the state of his heart – sinful. We, who are in Christ have been given new hearts. Therefore, God expects us to do what is right, which is possible when we walk in His Spirit, even though our carnal selfish hearts rebel against God's law.

#### *Home:* **How does this affect my household?**

Though there may be certain things in our household that we can't really change, we always have the choice of how we love and show grace to each other.

#### *Heaven:* **How does this help me share my faith?**

This is a clear picture of God bestowing grace on a totally unworthy person. We need to remember that is the same for us that we have received God's grace though unworthy, and that is one of the most important messages we can proclaim to our friends, neighbors and family who don't know Jesus.