

## Genesis 27 — Sin Never Pays

**May 1, 2016**

It is great to have you. We are studying our way through the book of Genesis. This morning we are in Genesis 27. Take out your notes and open your Bible as we prepare to study this chapter.

One of the most popular types of television shows is reality TV. People are tired of scripted perfection. Folks love to watch the unscripted mess of a dysfunctional family with everyone's dirty laundry hanging on the line for all to see.

Four thousand years ago they didn't have reality TV. If they did, Genesis 27 would have been on primetime. This chapter features a dysfunctional family that is a cross between Duck Dynasty and Keeping Up With The Kardashians. If you like reality TV, this Sunday is for you.

For the last few weeks we studied the lives of Isaac and Rebekah. Isaac and Rebekah had difficulty conceiving children. Rebekah was barren for 20 years. God eventually came to their rescue, and Rebekah conceived twin fraternal boys, Jacob and Esau. Esau was born first. He was a hairy man, I



mean a really hairy man. He looked like Chewbacca from Star Wars — that kind of hairy. He hunted, killed and grilled. He drove an old truck and most of what he owned was in camouflage green. Isaac — his father — played favorites. He openly loved Esau more than his brother, Jacob. That caused some serious family

problems.

Esau's brother, Jacob, was quiet. He was the the exact opposite of his older brother. Instead of hairy, he was smooth-skinned. He looked like one of those Abercrombie and Fitch models that uses lots of lotion. Jacob was a mama's boy. He hung out in the kitchen. He never went far from home. He always ironed his pants. He wanted to make sure his shirt color coordinated with his pants. He was that kind of guy. Rebekah, his mother, played favorites. She openly loved him much more than his older and much fuzzier older brother.

Before they were born, God gave a prophecy. Even though Esau was born first, the prophecy said the older would serve the younger. Things would switch between them and Jacob would rule over his older brother, Esau. Two weeks ago we saw how Esau, being a man who lived for his appetite at the moment, sold his birthright — which was worth millions of dollars — to his brother for nothing more than a bowl of soup. This morning, we will see how he lost his father's death-bed blessing and God's prophecy of the older brother ruling over the younger brother was fulfilled.

As we work our way through the text, we are going to focus on each character in the story and pull out one lesson from each of their lives then one overarching lesson at the end of the story. Let's jump in.

### **Isaac — Living for pleasure will lead away from living for God.**

When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called Esau his older son and said to him, "My son"; and he answered, "Here I am." He said, "Behold, I am old; I do not know the day of my death. Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me, and prepare for me delicious food, such as I love, and bring it to me so that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die." Genesis 27:1–4 (ESV)

Isaac was 60 when Rebekah conceived Jacob and Esau. He was at least 100 when this story took place. Like most of us — myself included — his eyes went bad with age. He needed a lot more than reading glasses. He needed a serious set of Coke-bottle lenses to see anything. The lenses he needed would have been the thickness of bulletproof glass because he was blind as a bat. Unfortunately, he didn't have Doctors Cornwall and Norland in his town. He didn't have a Doctor Fox to help with cataracts. He was just stuck so blind that he couldn't cross the street.

At this time he was also sick. He was so sick he thought he was about to die. He didn't die. He lived for another 80 years. When you are old and very sick, you think you are about to die. Every joint aches. Every body part feels like it is about to fall off. You sleep more than you are awake. That was Isaac. He actually had another 100,000 miles left in his body but at the moment he thought his body was ready for the junkyard.

Since he thought he was about to die, he told his son Esau to take his bow, go hunting, shoot a deer, and prepare him some delicious food. After the tasty meal Isaac would bless Esau before Isaac died. Why did Isaac want Esau to make a meal? Apparently Esau was not just a good hunter but he was also a good cook. He competed in Top Chef and won. His speciality was wild animals. Esau was the guy you wanted cooking at your wild-game feed. He was a first-rate chef.

The text implies Isaac liked Esau's cooking more than Rebekah's cooking. Men, note to self on this: don't tell your wife you like somebody else's cooking

more than you like her cooking. If you do, it will not go well. Your wife will not forget it. She will make you pay. You can see the storm clouds just gathering on the horizon with Isaac favoring Esau's cooking.

Just as Esau was so enslaved to his appetites and pleasures that he sold his birthright for a simple bowl of soup, Isaac became like him. He gave away the blessing in exchange for a tasty meal. Father and son were both men living for pleasure rather than living for God.

Here is another interesting angle most of us don't realize — in this scene, Isaac made a deliberate choice to sin. The passing on of the family blessing was to be a public ceremony. It was to be a time of family celebration just before the father died. Isaac knew his blessing should *not* go to Esau. The prophecy before the birth of these boys told them Esau would not be the one in charge of the family line. It would be Jacob. Isaac was intentionally rebelling against God's Word. He loved Esau's cooking so he planned to give him the blessing in exchange for his food. Isaac was living for pleasure, not living for God. In addition, as we will see later today, Isaac wasn't just rebelling against God's Word, he was planning on shafting Jacob and Rebekah. That was Isaac's plan. He was giving his blessing to his favorite son in exchange for a good meal to mock Jacob, who took the birthright from Esau in exchange for a meal.

What made Isaac's plan even more heinous is he should have had no doubt that Esau was not the son chosen for the blessing by God. Esau was not living a life worthy of receiving the blessing. Last week we skipped over a key part of Esau's story.

When Esau was forty years old, he took Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite to be his wife, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite, and they made life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah. Genesis 26:34–35 (ESV)

At the very age Isaac had done the hard work of searching out and marrying Rebekah, a godly wife, Esau married pagan women, not just one but two in the same wedding ceremony. He did it intentionally against the wishes of his parents. Can you imagine how that broke Isaac and Rebekah's hearts? It was hard enough to see Esau marry an ungodly pagan women from the culture. It was even worse to see him marry two women at the same time! Can you imagine the wedding ceremony with two brides walking down the aisle? Esau may have been a great hunter and an amazing cook but his marriages revealed his heart. He didn't want to live a holy life separate from the world. He lived for his appetite, not for his God. Just as he gave up his birthright to satisfy his physical appetite, in his wedding he married two pagan women to engorge his sexual appetite. Isaac knew Esau's life was not worth of receiving the death-bed blessing but he chose to sin and give it to Esau anyway.

Why was Isaac doing this? Isaac, just like Esau, had become a man that lived for pleasure and didn't live for God. If Esau satisfied Isaac's appetite with his great cooking, Isaac would turn a blind eye to Esau's sin and the revealed will of God.

### **Rebekah — One sin does not justify another sin.**

Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to his son Esau. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for game and bring it, Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "I heard your father speak to your brother Esau, 'Bring me game and prepare for me delicious food, that I may eat it and bless you before the Lord before I die.' Now therefore, my son, obey my voice as I command you. Go to the flock and bring me two good young goats, so that I may prepare from them delicious food

for your father, such as he loves. And you shall bring it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he dies.” But Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, “Behold, my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man. Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be mocking him and bring a curse upon myself and not a blessing.” His mother said to him, “Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, bring them to me.” So he went and took them and brought them to his mother, and his mother prepared delicious food, such as his father loved. Then Rebekah took the best garments of Esau her older son, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. And the skins of the young goats she put on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. And she put the delicious food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob. Genesis 27:5–17 (ESV)

Why was Rebekah listening when Isaac spoke to Esau? I don’t know.

Maybe he was too blind to see Rebekah in the room. Maybe Isaac’s hearing was just as bad as his eyesight so he said everything really loud. We don’t know.

What we do know is Rebekah had become a busybody and manipulator in her old age. Have any of you ladies seen women sticking their noses in somebody else’s business and then gossiping and manipulating? Of course that is never you. It is always other women.

Rebekah realized Isaac was acting deviously by trying to slip the family blessing to Esau instead of Jacob — her favorite son. She put a little plan of her own into action to trick the trickster.

First she told Jacob what she overheard. She commanded him to go to the flock and bring two young goats. She was convinced she could make the same kind of tasty meals as Esau with goat instead of venison. You can almost sense her bitterness toward Isaac because he favored Esau’s cooking over her cooking. You can sense she was looking for an opportunity to beat Esau at the food game.

Here is where it gets interesting. Jacob told her it would never work because Esau was a hairy man and he was smooth-skinned. If his dad figured out Jacob was trying to impersonate Esau, Jacob would end up cursed instead of blessed. Rebekah said to him, "If he curses you, let it be on me." In other words, "I will take the consequences."

Jacob should have said, "No. I will not try to trick my dying father. That is underhanded. That is devious. That is wicked. Lying to my dad is wrong. I don't do those kind of things. I don't care if I escape the consequences. Tricking dad is just wrong." That isn't what he said. Jacob was fine with sin as long as he didn't have to pay the consequences of sin.

Is that you today? Are you OK with sin as long as you can escape the consequences of sin? As long as nobody finds out, do you try and get away with sin? As long as nobody knows, do you feel free to not tell the truth? As long as nobody knows how fast you are driving, do you race over the limit? Jacob wasn't grieved by sin. He was only afraid of the consequences of sin. That shows a serious character flaw in his heart.

I love the next part. Look how Rebekah tried to pull off her plan. The text says she dressed Jacob in the clothes of Esau. At this point Jacob was age 50. When your mother is still dressing you at age 50, something is seriously wrong with your masculinity. In addition, she was convinced she had a way to fool her husband into thinking Jacob was Esau. She covered the exposed skin on Jacob's body with goat skin. This is hilarious. Can you picture Jacob in this costume? He looks like he was dressed up as an ape for a Halloween party.

In addition, this gives us a better picture of the hairiness of Esau. If his skin resembled the furriness of a household pet, you know Esau was one furry guy. Some guys have hair on their chests. Other guys have hair on their backs. Esau had thick fur like the dog on every part of his body. He had troubles with hairballs and shedding. He clogged the drain in the shower once a week.

Sometimes you hear about supposed discovery of the link between ape and man. Esau looked like that link. He walked upright. He hunted with a tool. He was hairy like an ape. Esau was a dead ringer for the evolutionary link.

Rebekah had everything set up. She cooked an imitation of Esau's wild game stew because she was tired of always hearing Esau was the better cook. She bossed Jacob around the house. She dressed him in Esau's clothes like he was a little boy. She covered him in animal fur so he looked ready for Halloween. She put the imitation wild game meal in Jacob's hands and smacked him on the butt as she sent Jacob into her husband's bedroom to trick him into giving the blessing to the wrong kid.

Was this family dysfunctional or what? They acted like they came from the back woods of Kentucky. We don't see Isaac and Rebekah working together. We don't see them talking together or praying together. They were working against one another. They pretended to love one another but they were underhandedly tricking and manipulating one another. That is recipe for disaster in any home. If a husband and wife are not honest with each other, especially when it comes to the kids, the end of the marriage is in sight.

I want you to notice Rebekah's plan. Isaac chose to sin. Rebekah thought her sin of deception was justified by Isaac's sin of deception. She thought her sin was justified to fix Isaac's sin.

One sin never fixes another sin. It only makes things worse.

This is one of the great temptations of Satan. If someone sins against us, we think it justifies our sin against him or her. If a friend writes nasty things about us on Facebook, we think it means we get to write nasty things about him or her on Facebook. If someone rips us off, we think it justifies us underhandedly returning the favor and ripping them off so we are even. One sin never justifies another sin. We think if our spouses yell at us, that means we get to yell back at them. No. It doesn't. We think that if someone hurts us, we are justified at speaking slanderously about him or her behind his or her back. It doesn't. The solution to one sin is never another sin, even when it comes to fulfilling God's revealed will. Rebekah should not have returned Isaac's sin with another sin. She should have confronted Isaac about his deception and gently called him to repentance trusting God to carry out his revealed will without needing her sin.

### **Jacob — One lie leads to more lies.**

So he went in to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?" Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me." But Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?" He answered, "Because the Lord your God granted me success." Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not." So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, who felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands. So he blessed him. He said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He answered, "I am." Then he said, "Bring it near to me, that I may eat of my son's game and bless you." So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he

brought him wine, and he drank. Then his father Isaac said to him, “Come near and kiss me, my son.” So he came near and kissed him. And Isaac smelled the smell of his garments and blessed him and said, “See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field that the Lord has blessed! May God give you of the dew of heaven and of the fatness of the earth and plenty of grain and wine. Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may your mother’s sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be everyone who blesses you!” Genesis 27:18–29 (ESV)

Jacob was dressed like an animal in Esau’s clothes holding a tray of steaming stew and bread as he shuffled into his father’s bedroom. The first question his father asked him was, “Who are you?” Isn’t this amazing the way things work? The first question Jacob got forced him to begin with a lie. “I am Esau, your firstborn. I did what you told me. Eat my food and bless me.” Jacob didn’t want to spend time with his father. He was the original eat-n-run.

Isaac didn't feel right about things so he asked another question, “How did you find it so quickly?” Jacob needed to dive deeper into his lie. “God gave me success. Dad, I went out the front door. The deer was in the yard. It just stood there while I took the time to notch my arrow and taking aim. I shot it dead in the front yard. It was an amazing shot. The skin fell off, and it fell in the pot. God made it work. Give glory to God. God gave us the original a microwave meal before the microwave. Give God all the credit on this one. He gave me the success.” To bolster his lie, he brought God’s name into the equation.

In case you haven’t noticed, you can’t tell one lie and get away with it. One lie always leads to another lie that is always deeper and darker. Lying is bad enough but when you are swearing by God’s name in your lie to make people believe it is true, you are in a bad way. In a court, when you put your

hand on a Bible, take an oath, then lie through your teeth, even an atheist knows you are in deep trouble. That was Jacob.

Isaac was still not convinced so he asked to feel Jacob. Jacob felt as hairy as the family dog. He was covered in furry skin. Isaac thought he felt like Esau. When you feel like the dog and people can't tell the difference, you are a man with a serious problem when it comes to hair.

Isaac then asked Jacob directly, "Are you *really* my son Esau?" This was the opportunity to come clean. He was not just deceiving his father. He was not just invoking God's name to deceive his father but now he was lying to his father's face when his father was on his deathbed. Anyone who intentionally lies to his own father when he is on his deathbed is a cold-hearted snake of the worst degree. That is deep evil. That was Jacob. He was a bold-faced-cold-hearted snake that lied to his dad when his dad was on his deathbed. They don't even do that in the mafia.

Jacob gave his father the meal and you did notice how he had his dad wash it down. Jacob brought his father wine. Isaac didn't ask for wine but Jacob gave him wine. "Come on dad, keep drinking. Wash it down with lots of wine. I need you to get drunk in a hurry so you don't figure things out." Way to go, Jacob. Great son. Tanking your father on alcohol. Get him stone drunk on his deathbed so you can better cheat and lie to him. Great way to honor your dad, you lousy snake-in-the-grass!

Finally Isaac said to Jacob, "Come near to me and kiss me." Isaac's eyes may not have worked but his nose still worked. A guy like Esau had that man

odor about him. You ladies know what I am talking about. This is why your washing machine is always running. This is why you refuse to hug your husband when he comes home from the gym. This is why you tell him to take a shower. Esau had that nasty smell. Esau was famous for that nasty man smell. Esau smelled like a field, a field that was freshly fertilized with manure. That was Esau. Jacob felt like Esau, and he smelled like Esau.

Jacob then kissed his father in his deception. He kissed his father to buy his trust so he could betray his father. This was like Judas kissing Jesus. This was the kiss of deception. It looked like a kiss that says, "I love you," but in reality it was a kiss that said, "I hate you. I am cheating you. I am lying to you. I am deceiving you." That was Jacob. What a terrible snake-in-the-grass. One lie leads to another and his lies and deception kept getting worse.

Finally, Isaac was convinced he had the right son so he blessed Jacob instead of Esau. He gave him four things in this blessing.

1. The smell of the country brought the promise of land and the fertility of the land. He gave Jacob the entire farm, not part of it.
2. The dew is a Hebrew metaphor of God's goodness. He gave Jacob the promise of prosperity and blessing.
3. He gave Jacob universal dominion over his brother.
4. He reiterated the blessing given to Abraham making Jacob the one to carry on the blessing of Abraham within the family line.

In a moment, we will learn some interesting information about this blessing but for now I want to keep our focus on the life of Jacob. His life teaches us that

sin never stays isolated. One sin always leads to another sin. Subsequent sins are almost always darker and more sinister. Jacob didn't just deceive his father once. He bold-faced lied to him multiple times. He invoked God's name in his lies. He even betrayed his father with a kiss, just like Judas betrayed Jesus. That was incredible wickedness.

...be sure your sin will find you out. Numbers 32:23 (ESV)

This morning, as I am teaching, the Holy Spirit was working in many of your hearts. For some of you, the Holy Spirit brought to mind a particular sin that you are living. It is a deception, just like Jacob's, that you are trying to cover and manage. Realize you cannot manage sin. Your sin will find you out. It will lead to more sin and greater sin. The only way to break free from the tentacles of sin is to confess it and repent of it. Every divorce starts with someone trying to manage his or her sin instead of confessing and repenting. Every crook or drug addict starts with sin management, not confession and repentance.

What often happens is the service ends and we forget everything the pastor showed us in God's Word. We don't make changes in our lives. Don't miss this. Don't forget this. Today, make a change. Stop trying to manage your sin and live with your sin. Confess your sin to God and those you sinned against and repent of your sin. The sin the Holy Spirit brought to your mind is something you cannot ignore. Confess it and repent of it. Don't continue trying to manage it.

**Esau — There is a difference between worldly sorrow and godly repentance.**

As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, when Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, Esau his brother came in from his

hunting. He also prepared delicious food and brought it to his father. And he said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that you may bless me." His father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?" He answered, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau." Then Isaac trembled very violently and said, "Who was it then that hunted game and brought it to me, and I ate it all before you came, and I have blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed." As soon as Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry and said to his father, "Bless me, even me also, O my father!" But he said, "Your brother came deceitfully, and he has taken away your blessing." Esau said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has cheated me these two times. He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing." Then he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?" Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Behold, I have made him lord over you, and all his brothers I have given to him for servants, and with grain and wine I have sustained him. What then can I do for you, my son?" Esau said to his father, "Have you but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father." And Esau lifted up his voice and wept. Then Isaac his father answered and said to him: "Behold, away from the fatness of the earth shall your dwelling be, and away from the dew of heaven on high. By your sword you shall live, and you shall serve your brother; but when you grow restless you shall break his yoke from your neck." Genesis 27:30–40 (ESV)

Don't you like the way God times things? As soon as Isaac finished blessing Jacob and he went out the door, Esau showed up with his prepared food. Top chef Esau was ready to get his blessing. Isaac instantly realized he was hood-winked. It says he trembled violently. Isaac had a panic attack.

I know some of you struggle with panic attacks. You are filled with anxiety. You jump at anything. Some of you are on medication for anxiety. I understand that is a medical condition. I respect that and sympathize with you.

Others of us are just as jumpy and trembly because we are filled with anxiety but the source of our anxiety is not medical. It is spiritual. When you are living in sin you are always worried about being found out. You jump when the phone rings because you think somebody is calling that finally knows the real you. You are afraid when you talk to people in church because you are filled with shame. You don't look people in the eye because you are afraid they might see

through your eyes into the darkness of your soul. You are trembly and jumpy, not because you need medication but because you sin and you are afraid you will get caught. That was Isaac. That may be you.

Isaac planned to give the irrevocable family blessing to Esau secretly. He had a guilty conscience. He was caught and tricked. You know the feeling that comes over you when you are sinning mightily and you are caught red-handed? This is like a guy looking at Internet porn and his wife walks in on him. She doesn't just see him looking at porn but she reviews his cache history for the last month and she knows the full extend of the immorality of his soul. That is a guy that is shaking so bad he wishes he wasn't born. That was Isaac, tricked and caught red-handed in his sin.

What makes this an especially great sin is when Isaac blessed Jacob, he gave Jacob everything. His plan was to give Esau all the land, all the prosperity, leadership over the family and the Abrahamic blessing. Isaac's plan was to write Jacob out of the will and give everything to Esau. That wasn't just against God's prophetic words, it wasn't fair to take twins and give one brother everything and the other brother absolutely nothing. No wonder Isaac was trembling like a leaf. He gave away his entire inheritance to the wrong son. He gave it all to Jacob instead of Esau. This is why when Esau asked if he could still have a blessing Isaac essentially said, "No. I have nothing left to give because I gave everything to your brother. I was planning on cutting him out of the will but I ended up cutting you out of the will. I was planning to leave Jacob penniless but I was

tricked. I left you penniless.” Esau’s descendants lived in subservience to Jacob’s descendants for most of biblical history until 2 Kings 8.

Esau freaked out. It says he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry. He couldn’t believe his brother stole the blessing and the birthright from under his nose. Esau wasn’t being honest. Two weeks ago we studied this. Did Jacob steal the birthright from Esau? No! Esau sold it for a bowl of soup. That is like signing over the title to your house in exchange for a bag of McDonald’s Big Macs. If you do that, you can’t blame someone for ripping you off. You can only blame yourself for being stupid. That was Esau. He foolishly sold his birthright — which was worth millions — for soup.

Even though Esau was foolish when it came to losing his birthright, when it came to the blessing, he was ripped off by his brother. I want you to notice that Esau’s sadness didn’t lead him to repentance and change. Esau only expressed worldly sorrow, not godly sorrow. Worldly sorrow means you feel bad you were ripped off. You are crying because you lost something. Godly sorrow means you cry but you respond with repentance. You admit the sin of your way and change. Esau never repented and never changed after this incident. We started off seeing Esau marry two pagan women. It was pagan polygamy from day one on the wedding night. That disqualified him for the blessing. It got worse. At the end of the chapter we find Esau didn’t repent of his marital sin but instead he chose to marry a third wife, a descendant of Ishmael. Hagar and Ishmael were sent away because they were not God’s chosen line. Hagar and Ishmael were the bad dream everyone in the family wanted to forget. They were sent away

from the family. Esau married a descendant of Ishmael to bring them back into the family. Yikes! That was hard-core rebellion. Can you imagine the pain that brought to his parents?

This is like a teenage girl rebelling against her parents. As part of her rebellion, she gets a boyfriend that is a drug dealer that is 10 years older than she is. He is a guy that has no teeth. The only classes he passed in high school were shop classes. This guy rides a bicycle because he can't pass driver's education. When, in rebellion, she brings that guy home to introduce him to her father you know she is doing it because she can't wait to watch her parents' heads explode. You can just hear her father pouring rock salt in the family shotgun as this guy is walking to the front door. Dad is scared to death for his daughter because her serious rebellion is ruining her life. That was Esau. He was sorry he got cheated but he wasn't sorry enough to repent of his ungodly lifestyle. If Mom and Dad didn't like two pagan girls in the bedroom, how about three? The third was from a disowned relative. Esau's wives were like splinters under his parents' fingernails as Esau ran the original Sister Wives show.

How do you respond to sin? Are you an Esau that has worldly sorrow? Do you feel bad your life fell apart or do you let the pain in your life lead you to repentance, when you call out for God's mercy and ask for a change in your heart and your ways? Are you just sorry you got caught? Are you just sorry you were cheated? Are you sorry for your sin?

**Sin never pays.**

Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, "The days of mourning for my father are

approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob.” But the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son and said to him, “Behold, your brother Esau comforts himself about you by planning to kill you. Now therefore, my son, obey my voice. Arise, flee to Laban my brother in Haran and stay with him a while, until your brother’s fury turns away— until your brother’s anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him. Then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereft of you both in one day?” Then Rebekah said to Isaac, “I loathe my life because of the Hittite women. If Jacob marries one of the Hittite women like these, one of the women of the land, what good will my life be to me?” Genesis 27:41–46 (ESV)

Esau let his worldly sorrow lead him to bitterness and into planning the murder of his own brother. The desire for murder in Esau’s heart further identified him as more of a son of Satan than a son of God.

Rebekah again overheard the gossip and put another one of her plans into action. She told Jacob to run to Laban, her brother, that lived a few hundred miles away. Jacob was to stay with Laban until Esau forgot what Jacob did to him. How well do you think Esau would have forgotten that Jacob ripped him off millions of dollars and left Esau penniless in the inheritance? I don’t think Esau would have forgotten that one for a long time.

Rebekah told Isaac she couldn’t stand the Canaanite women and Jacob needed to go back to her family to find a godly girl. Rebekah bent the truth to her husband. She was not a great wife at this point. Jacob ended up running for his life to Laban.

As we wrap up this chapter, I want you to put the stories of this family together. When we sin, it never pays.

Isaac’s sin didn’t pay. His sin of underhandedly trying to give the entire inheritance to Esau instead of Jacob was exposed. He trembled with shame. He was ashamed and known as a cheating, lying father. His sin never paid off.

Rebekah's sin never paid off. The son she loved was forced to run for his life to Laban because of her sinful plan. She never saw him again. She died without ever seeing the son she loved, his family or his children. Her sin got him the family blessing but her sin never paid off. She lost the son she loved forever.

Jacob's sin didn't pay off. He ended up as the sole heir of the multi-million dollar Abraham-Isaac estate, but by the next chapter he was running for his life with just the clothes on his back and a stick in his hand. In the next portion of his life, he had absolutely nothing. If Esau was a JV sinner and Jacob was a varsity sinner, wait until we meet Laban, Rebekah's brother. He was all-pro evil. He slipped a different woman into Jacob's honeymoon suite on his wedding night when the lights were off. When you wake up the morning after your wedding night and find you were tricked and made love to a different woman, that is serious evil.

For Esau, his sin didn't pay off. Dating and marrying not just one but three pagan wives showed his heart wasn't following after God. Those sins disqualified him for his father's blessing.

Whenever we sin, it never pays off, even when, like Rebekah, we try to use a lesser sin to straighten out a greater sin. Sin never pays.

This week when someone sins against you by slandering your name or cheating you out of money or says something untrue or hurtful about you to your friends or on the web, don't do a Rebekah and think his or her sin justifies your sin. Sin never pays.

## Conclusion

In this chapter there is no hero. The only hero comes much later in the Bible. His name is Jesus. He picked up the words of Rebekah and used them as his own. He said, “let the curse of your sin fall on me.” While in Genesis 27, we learned sin never pays, Jesus —the hero of the story — came and paid for our sin. He paid for the sins of dysfunctional families like Isaac, Rebekah and Jacob. He also came to pay for the sins of our dysfunctional families and our dysfunctional lives. Sin never pays but Jesus paid for sin.



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