

A FAMILY OF DYSFUNCTION, A GOD OF GRACE AND PROVIDENCE

Text: Genesis 27:18-37

Date: Sunday, November 23, 2025

SUMMARY

Genesis 27:18–37 is the story of a deeply broken family—Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Esau—each driven by selfish motives, fear, or favoritism. Instead of submitting to God’s revealed will, every member of this family tries to manipulate outcomes for personal gain. And yet, God’s Will stands firm. His purposes are not defeated by human failure or sin. This story teaches that God’s Will overcomes selfish motives and broken people to fulfill God’s Blessing. It challenges us to consider whether we are truly seeking God’s will or trying to force our own.

SERMON OUTLINE

I. INTRODUCTION

- Set the scene: a dysfunctional family in Genesis 27.
- Contrast with last week’s message on Isaac’s obedience.
- Key theme: God’s Will overcomes selfish motives and broken people to fulfill God’s Blessing.
- Four questions to discern if we are living in God’s Will.

II. QUESTION 1: AM I SUBMITTING TO GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY?

- A. Isaac’s past spiritual experiences (Mount Moriah, God’s promises).
- B. Isaac’s favoritism toward Esau and his attempt to override God’s prophecy.
- C. Isaac tries to manipulate God’s plan by giving Esau the blessing.
- D. Isaac is deceived and trembles violently—his rebellion fails.
- E. Application:

- We cannot negotiate with or manipulate God.
- Proverbs 19:21—God’s purpose will stand.

III. QUESTION 2: AM I STAYING TRUE TO GOD’S LAW?

- A. Rebekah's favoritism and decision to "help" God along.
- B. Her plan of deception and Jacob's cooperation.
- C. Sin used as a strategy to fulfill what God promised.
- D. Application:

- God never calls us to sin to accomplish His Will.
- Obedience matters more than results.

IV. QUESTION 3: DO I TRUST GOD'S PROVIDENCE?

- A. Esau's history—loss of the birthright, now the blessing.
- B. Esau's bitterness grows into murderous intent.
- C. Esau misses his own calling because he focuses on Jacob.
- D. Application:

- Comparing ourselves to others blinds us to God's plan for us.
- Trusting God's Providence means trusting His plan for **you**.

V. QUESTION 4: AM I GOOD ENOUGH TO RECEIVE GOD'S BLESSINGS?

- A. Jacob's deception, insecurity, and lack of character.
- B. Jacob's blessing does not change him—he flees in fear.
- C. Application:

- Jacob didn't deserve blessing—but God's grace is greater than our failures.
- We receive blessing not because we are good, but because God is gracious.

VI. THE GOSPEL CONNECTION

- A. Unlike Isaac, God is a generous Father who loves to give good gifts (Matt 7:9–11).
- B. Like Rebekah taking the curse for Jacob, Jesus becomes the curse for us (Gal 3:13).
- C. We put on the garments of the true Firstborn—Christ's righteousness (Gal 3:27).
- D. Unlike Jacob, we are transformed from the inside out by the Spirit (2 Cor 3:18).

REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR THE CONGREGATION

1. Where in my life am I trying to force my will instead of submitting to God's Sovereignty?
2. Are there situations where I'm justifying disobedience because I think it will achieve a "good" result?
3. Whom am I comparing myself to—and how is that affecting my trust in God's Providence for my life?
4. Do I believe I must earn God's blessing, or do I truly rest in Christ's righteousness on my behalf?

5. How does knowing God fulfills His purposes despite human failure give me hope for my own story?