

Chapter 2

REBEKAH the HELPFUL WIFE

Rebekah was Isaac's wife and she had twin boys - Esau and Jacob. When she was pregnant, the two boys "*struggled together within her*", and when she sought the Lord about it, He said, "*...the older shall serve the younger*" (*Gen. 25:23*). Jacob was younger – and since she knew what God wanted, she decided to make it happen.

“Rebekah said to her son Jacob, I heard your father speak to your brother Esau, 'Bring me the 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.”
Genesis 27:6-10

She was right about the outcome, but she did not trust the Lord to handle it. This is such an easy trap to fall into! She felt like she needed to manipulate the situation and she did it - very well! She deceived her blind husband with food and a "costume", and got her son to help her do it (which, by the way, was not-so-great parenting)! In the end, she got what she wanted - sort of. While Jacob did get the blessing, Esau was so angry that he threatened to kill him, so Jacob had to flee. Rebekah lost her son when he left, and I am sure the whole situation was very damaging

to the relationship with her husband. But in her heart, she probably started out thinking she was helping God with His plans for her family.

As a coach's wife, I can think of so many times that I've tried to be "helpful" to my busy coach, but I'm not really being a helper to him. I can find myself just helping out of fear, because if I don't do it, no one will! Or because he's not home, it all depends on me to hold down the fort, be both parents and raise perfect kids. When in truth, God cares about my marriage and family even more than I do. And one of the best things I can do for my husband, instead of trying to be so helpful, is to ask JESUS to HELP ME!

I hate to say it this way, but Rebekah did not win the fight against fear in this particular situation. She was so wrapped up in making sure her son got what he was promised, that she took action instead of trusting that the Lord would fulfill His promises. God is so gracious. I encourage us all to remember that truth - whatever we have or haven't done as wives and mothers, friends and daughters - there is power, forgiveness and grace. Even though Rebekah sinned in such a hurtful way, Jacob is in the genealogy of Christ. God had already designed Jesus' family tree and would have done it with or without her help.

The Bible doesn't say that Rebekah ever saw Jacob again. There were consequences for her manipulation, but even still, we see God's sovereign hand prevail and His mercy continue through generations.

WRAP IT UP:

1. **FIGHTING FEAR:** It seems like Rebekah had lost the fight against fear before this situation ever came up! She was probably bound up by something in her life already - favoritism, control and self-reliance to name a few! She had a “I better do it myself or it won’t get done” mindset. Is this a mindset you battle against?

Ask the Lord to give you His power to fight your fears.

“The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”- Exodus 14:1

2. **FINDING FAITH:** At the beginning of the story, Rebekah “inquired of the Lord” (Genesis 25:22) about the struggle of the twins during her pregnancy. The Lord answered her questions, but she had an incorrect application! Have you ever seen God at work in your husband’s life and tried to help things along?

Ask the Lord to accomplish His will in His timing, and that during that time of waiting

He would give you faith to believe His promises!

“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”-

Hebrew 11:1

PRAYER:

Lord, thank you for Your grace and patience. Please protect us from the traps of control and manipulation and lead us in the ways of trust and faith in You! We believe that You are committed to our families, and You will accomplish Your purposes in Your timing. Please help us to be helpful in faith, not in fear. Amen!