

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Genesis

THE STOLEN BLESSING

Genesis 27

Elementary Lesson

Year One, Quarter One, Lesson Thirteen

[0130]

AIM: to use the story of the stolen blessing to teach my students to do right God's way

OBJECTS TO HAVE: A trophy
 A picture of a big meal
 A picture of rugged Esau
 A picture of fair-skinned Jacob
 A patch of animal skin
 Your Bible

POINT OF CONTACT: Listen to this verse: 2 Timothy 2:5 – *And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.* Do you know what that means? Let me tell you.

This is a trophy. This is the kind of trophy you would win if you were in a race or a contest. How many of you would like to win a trophy like this someday?

If you were going to run in a race, and this is the trophy that you would receive if you won the race, then you would want to work very hard to win this trophy, wouldn't you? Every person in the race would want to win this trophy. It would be a very good thing to win the trophy.

But this verse tells us that it is not just important to win the trophy; it is also important to run the race by the rules. If you cheat to win the trophy, you didn't really win the trophy.

Today I am going to tell you about somebody who wanted a good thing. He wanted something even greater than this trophy. But he did a bad thing to try to get a good thing. Let me tell you about him.

LESSON: Last Sunday I told you about Jacob and Esau. I told you how Esau did not think highly enough of the birthright that God had for him. Esau traded away his birthright for a bowl of soup. Once Esau had given up his birthright, he knew he had made a big mistake. He knew he would never get it back.

But there was still one more special thing that Esau could have had. Esau could have had the blessing of his father, Isaac. You see, when a godly man like Isaac was growing old, and he thought that he might die soon, he would call in his oldest son, and pronounce a blessing on him. God would honor the blessing that was pronounced by a godly father, and God would see to it that good things would happen to that son for the rest of that son's life. Many godly men in the Bible pronounced a blessing upon their sons, and God blessed their sons greatly.

As Isaac got to be an old man, he was going to put his blessing upon his older son, Esau. Even though Esau had given away his birthright, it would still be a great thing to receive the blessing of his father upon his life.

One day Isaac called Esau into his room. Isaac said, "Son, I am getting old. Before I die I want to bless you. I want my blessing to be a very special occasion. Since you are a hunter, I want you to go out into the field and kill a deer. Bring that deer home and cook it, and make me a nice meal. Bring that meal to me, and I will eat it. Then I will give you my blessing."

Esau ran out of his father's room, and went to get his bow and arrows to go hunting. Esau was so excited that, even though he had given up his birthright, he was still going to get his father's blessing.

But Esau's mother, Rebekah, was in the next room when Isaac gave Esau his instructions. Rebekah heard what Isaac had told Esau. Rebekah wanted Jacob to have Isaac's blessing instead of Esau. So Rebekah went to find Jacob. Rebekah told Jacob, "I want you to have your father's blessing, and I am going to help you get it. We can take two goats from our herd, and I can cook them to taste just like a deer. Then, before Esau gets back, you will take it in to your father. Since he is old and getting blind, he won't know that you are not Esau, and he will give you the blessing that he is planning to give Esau."

Jacob said, “But mom...Esau’s arms are all hairy, and mine are not. Dad can’t see, but if he touches my arm he will know that I’m not Esau. Then once he figures out that we tried to trick him, I’ll get a curse instead of a blessing.”

Rebekah said, “You just leave it to me. I’ll take care of everything.”

Rebekah used the goats to make a nice meal for Jacob to take in to his father, Isaac. She took some of Esau’s clothes, and told Jacob to put them on. Then Rebekah took the skin from the goats, and put it on Jacob’s arms. That way Jacob would feel like he had hairy arms, and he would smell like he had been out in the field. Isaac would think that Jacob was Esau.

When everything was ready, Jacob took the meal into Isaac and said, “Dad, I’m back!”

Isaac said, “That sure was fast, Esau.”

Jacob said, “Well...God brought the deer right to me.”

Isaac said, “It’s funny...you don’t sound like Esau. You sound like Jacob.”

Jacob said, “Well, I uh...here, my arms are different than Jacob’s.”

Isaac felt the goat’s hair on Jacob’s arms, and he felt Esau’s clothes, and he said, “Oh...it IS you, Esau.” Then Isaac ate the meal that Rebekah had prepared. He said, “That was so good, Esau. You sure know just how I like it. Come over here.” Isaac placed his hand on Jacob’s head, and he prayed for God to bless his life in a great way. He asked God to bless him, to make him prosperous, to make him a great leader, and to give him great protection.

When Isaac finished, Jacob walked out of the room. Almost immediately, Esau walked in with the meal that he had prepared for his father Isaac. Esau said, “Dad, I’m here! I have your meal!”

Isaac said, “What? Who are you?”

Esau answered, “I’m your oldest son, Esau. Remember? You told me to go hunting, and to make you a meal.”

Isaac said, “But I just ate a meal from somebody who said HE was Esau! If you are Esau, who did I just bless?”

Right away, Esau knew what had happened. He knew that Jacob had tricked his father, and stolen the blessing that was supposed to be his.

Esau cried out, “Dad, can’t you bless me, too?” Isaac did pray for Esau, but Isaac could not pray the great blessing that he had prayed for Jacob. Esau had lost out again.

Now, let me ask you: was it a good thing for Jacob to want his father’s blessing? Yes, it was. Jacob wanted a good thing. But did Jacob get it in the right way? No, he did not. **It is never right to get something by lying and cheating**, like Jacob did.

But someone says, “But Jacob got the blessing, didn’t he? So it all worked out okay!” Jacob did get his father’s blessing; but it did not all work out okay. Jacob also got years of pain and heartache because of his lies. If Jacob had done things God’s way, he would have gotten the blessing without the heartache.

It is right to want good things in your life. But you must get the good things the right way.

Is it right to want to win a contest? Yes. Is it right to cheat to win a contest? No. If you cheat to win, you didn’t really win.

Is it right to want to get good grades in school? Yes. Is it right to cheat on a test to get good grades? No. If you cheat to get good grades, then you didn’t really get good grades.

Is it right to want to win if you are playing a game of kickball? Sure, it is. Is it right to break the rules or tell a lie in order to win? No, it’s not. If you have to lie or cheat in order to win, you didn’t really win.

When you win, you want the good feeling of knowing that you did your best, kept the rules, and won fair and square. And it is better to lose playing by the rules than to win breaking the rules. **People who have to break the rules to win won’t be winners for long.** They will never learn to win the right way, and some day they will get caught for their cheating. Just do right, tell the truth, play by the rules, and earn your way.

Jacob wanted a good thing. But Jacob used the wrong method to get the right thing.

Let’s learn our memory verse. **Galatians 6:9 – *And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.***

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Teen and Adult Lesson

Year One, Quarter One, Lesson Thirteen

[0130]

Teacher, choose one of the following truths to expand upon in teaching this portion of Scripture to your teen/adult class. Teach and apply the truth that you choose using statements and illustrations that are most helpful and applicable to your students.

- I. **WE OUGHT TO SEEK THE BLESSING OF PEOPLE WHO ARE BLESSED OF GOD.** It was very important to both Jacob and Esau that they have their father's blessing. When we have the opportunity for a man of God to pray for God to bless our lives, we ought to count that as a great honor.
- II. **GOD HAD A PLAN FOR JACOB, AND NOT ESAU, TO BE THE SON OF PROMISE.** The Bible makes it clear that God rejected Esau and chose Jacob, in spite of the fact that nature said that Esau should be the son of promise. God is perfectly capable of overriding man's ways in order for His plans to be fulfilled. If you are hungry for God's best, do not fear that some effort of man will override God's purpose for you.
- III. **JACOB DID NOT HAVE TO BE A DECEIVER TO HAVE GOD'S BLESSING.** Do not think that God needed Jacob to be a weasel in order for God's purpose to be fulfilled. If Jacob had simply been obedient, God's plan would have been fulfilled some other way. God worked in spite of Jacob's deceit, but God did not need Jacob's sin.
- IV. **JACOB PAID DEARLY FOR HIS LYING.** The greatest heartaches of Jacob's life came as a result of his teaching his sons how to be deceivers. Though God blessed Jacob in spite of his lying, Jacob still paid for his lying. God may use you in spite of your sin, but God does not need your sin, and do not think that He overlooks your sin just because everything seems to turn out alright.
- V. **THAT WHICH MAKES YOU HUNGRY FOR GOD'S BLESSING IS A BLESSING IN ITSELF.** 27:34. This is the first sign of passion that we see in Esau. Once Esau realized what he had lost, for the first time in his life he was hungry. God cannot use us until we are hungry for his blessing. Later we see that Esau is blessed in his life. This great loss was actually a blessing, for it awoke Esau from his dullness, and made him hungry.

The Stolen Blessing

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[0130]

Rebekah Persuades Jacob to Deceive His Father

I. GENESIS 27:1-4 Isaac Instructs Esau

1-2 Isaac is preparing for his death

3-4a Isaac tells Esau to hunt and prepare him a meal

4b Isaac promises to bless Esau

II. GENESIS 27:5-17 Rebekah Helps Jacob

5-10 Rebekah presents her plan to Jacob

11-13 Rebekah calms the fears of Jacob

14-17 Rebekah prepares the meal for Jacob

III. GENESIS 27:18-29 Jacob Deceives Isaac

18-19 Jacob's lies

20-24 Isaac's puzzlement

25-29 Isaac's blessing

IV. GENESIS 27:30-40 Isaac Informs Esau

30-33 Isaac realizes that he has been deceived

34-37 Isaac confirms that he has blessed Jacob

38-40 Isaac blesses Esau as a servant of his brother

V. GENESIS 27:41-46

41 Esau intends to kill Jacob

42-45 Rebekah quickly warns Jacob

46 Rebekah tells her concern to Isaac

Galatians 6:9

And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

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Match the answer from the right column that best fits the clue in the left column. Write the LETTER of the correct answer in the SPACE beside the matching clue.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| _____ <i>Was blind, and was going to die soon</i> | A TRICKED |
| _____ <i>Isaac's older son</i> | B REBEKAH |
| _____ <i>Isaac's younger son</i> | C ISAAC |
| _____ <i>Isaac wanted to give this to Esau</i> | D HUNTING |
| _____ <i>Wanted Jacob to receive the blessing</i> | E VENISON |
| _____ <i>Isaac asked Esau to kill and cook this for him</i> | F JACOB |
| _____ <i>Rebekah and Jacob cooked a meal for Isaac while Esau was doing this</i> | G CRIED |
| _____ <i>Rebekah used this to help Jacob smell and feel like Esau</i> | H HIS BLESSING |
| _____ <i>Jacob did this to his father, to make him think he was Esau</i> | I GOATS' SKIN |
| _____ <i>Esau did this when he realized Isaac had given his blessing to Jacob</i> | J ESAU |

*And let us not be weary in well doing;
for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*

GALATIANS 6:9

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The answers to today's puzzle

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| <u>C</u> <i>Was blind, and was going to die soon</i> | A TRICKED |
| <u>J</u> <i>Isaac's older son</i> | B REBEKAH |
| <u>F</u> <i>Isaac's younger son</i> | C ISAAC |
| <u>H</u> <i>Isaac wanted to give this to Esau</i> | D HUNTING |
| <u>B</u> <i>Wanted Jacob to receive the blessing</i> | E VENISON |
| <u>E</u> <i>Isaac asked Esau to kill and cook this for him</i> | F JACOB |
| <u>D</u> <i>Rebekah and Jacob cooked a meal for Isaac while Esau was doing this</i> | G CRIED |
| <u>I</u> <i>Rebekah used this to help Jacob smell and feel like Esau</i> | H HIS BLESSING |
| <u>A</u> <i>Jacob did this to his father, to make him think he was Esau</i> | I GOATS' SKIN |
| <u>G</u> <i>Esau did this when he realized Isaac had given his blessing to Jacob</i> | J ESAU |