

Genesis 27
“A Divided House”

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled this message: **“A Divided House.”**

(Matt. 12:25) NLT

*“Any kingdom divided by civil war is doomed.
A town or a family splintered by feuding will fall apart.”*

~ INTRO ~

OK...

- As we start our study of Genesis... let's remember the big picture.

GOD HAS A SPECIFIC PLAN...

- He's unfolding it... WITH specific characters – “*The Patriarchs.*”

AND IN...

- (Gen. 12 – 50) the storyline focuses on four main characters:
 - 1) Abraham (Ishmael & Isaac)
 - 2) Isaac (Esau & Jacob)
 - 3) Jacob (had the 12-sons & Joseph was chosen)
 - 4) Joseph (300 years later... the story picks up with Moses at Exodus)

NOW... TODAY'S STUDY...

- We begin to see Isaac fading and Jacob coming on the scene.
 - This was the younger son chosen by God.
 - Not the older son Esau.
- And this is where we pick up today.
 - The younger brother (Jacob) tricking his father...
 - And stealing his brothers natural blessing.

BIG IDEA – JACOB STEALS THE BLESSING: (Gen. 27:1-46)

READ (vv.1-13)

THE STORY OPENS...

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- With the scene of an aging man (Isaac) who is 137-years old.
 - He was the same age as when his older brother Ishmael died.
 - (Gen. 25:17) NKJV.

FLIP TO (Ecc. 12:1-5) NKJV

- The Bible encourages us to seek the Lord early in life...
 - Before we become jaded, and life becomes difficult...
 - Because of health issues & a dying body.

ON THE OTHER HAND...

- The psalmist gives us a godly perspective (92:12-15) NKJV.
 - About how God keeps His own fruitful in old age.

OLD PEOPLE CAN BE A BLESSING...

- Or bitter depending on how they handle the pains in life.
- Esau had married two wives...
 - And they were a “*grief of mind*” (Gen. 26:35) NKJV
 - To Isaac & Rebekah.
- Isaac was a 100-years old at that point (Gen. 25:26)

NOW... ALMOST 40-YRS. PASSES... AND...

- Isaac believes he is dying and calls for his oldest son – Esau.
 - He wanted to have one last good meal...
 - And pass off an inheritance to him.

IN A CASUAL READING WE CAN OVERLOOK...

- That this is a huge lapse of faith by Isaac.

GOD HAD ALREADY MADE HIS PLAN KNOWN...

- (Gen. 25:23) NKJV
 - We also read it in the NT (Rom. 9:10-13) NKJV.

HERE’S THE PROBLEM...

- (Gen. 25:28) NKJV
 - Favorite kids – man’s preferences squeezed out Gods will.

THIS IS WHY IT’S IMPORTANT...

- To continually draw direction from the word of God.

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- c.p. (Matt. 2) God spoke to Joseph in 4 different dreams.
 - Leading the seasons and steps of his life.

IN (Gen. 25:34) NKJV – “*Esau despised his birthright*”

- Esau did not have signs of faith in his life.
 - He was a carnal man concerned only with temporary things.

AND... IF WE CAN GRASP THE SCENE...

- We often expect... that age brings maturity!
 - BUT... these guys (Jacob & Esau) were 77-years old here.
 - And their rivalry was only getting worse!

PRACTICALLY SPEAKING...

- Sometimes God separates us from our natural families...
 - Because He’s developing us.
 - And we can miss it in the moment.
- Maybe your family harasses you for your faith in Jesus.
 - Yet... God uses these things to test & strengthen our faith.
 - (Matt. 10:33-40) NKJV.

NOW NOTICE WITH ME...

- How the family drama rolled on with Jacob’s lying to his dad...
 - (v.19-a) first lie
 - (v.19-b) second lie
 - (v.20) third lie
 - (v.24) fourth lie

(vv.27-29) Jacob deceived his dad (Isaac).

THE BIBLE SAYS...

(Gal. 6:7) NKJV

*“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked;
for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”*

AND LATER... (Gen. 29:23-25)...

- Uncle Laban deceived Jacob and gave him...
 - His daughter Leah instead of Rachel.

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FINALLY...

- The chapter ends at the height of drama with...
 - Esau wanting to kill Jacob.
 - READ (Gen. 27:41-44).

(v.44) “... *stay with him a few days...*”

- Twenty years went by before Jacob returned home...
 - (Gen. 31:41) NKJV
 - To deal with the past problems – he’s 97-yrs old.

~ IN CLOSING ~

AS WE LOOK AHEAD...

- We’re going to see Jacob wrestle with God...
 - As his past catches up with him...
 - And he’s faced with the conflict between FAITH & FEAR.

A COMMON EXPERIENCE...

- For all of us.

Listen... if you need prayer tonight...

- Come to the front of the stage where we can serve you.