

University Heights Baptist Church

Ambassador's Class.
Loving, Growing, Sharing

17 July 2011

Andy on Life

(The Darlings Are Coming)

INTRODUCTION

How does man explain, "The ends justify the means?"

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Gen 27

*Note: Although Isaac chose Esau for the apparent advantage that a skilled hunter could bring to his table (25:28), the mention of Esau as "his older son" (v. 1) perhaps indicates that he intended to practice the custom of primogeniture. Twice Jacob (disguised as Esau) and Esau identify themselves by the term "the firstborn" (vv. 19, 32). In light of the frequent disregard for primogeniture in Genesis, however, this recurring appellative in the chapter (vv. 1, 15, 42) in effect announces to the reader that the favor will go to the younger, heightening awareness of the sibling reversal that follows.¹ Special importance was attached to a deathbed decision ("before he dies," v. 10), making the "blessing" the most consequential *ex officio* act of the aging patriarch (cp. 50:16; Deut 33:1; 1 Chr 22:5).² Oral statements given as blessings and curses had legal force.*

Isaac was about 137 years old at this point, yet he acted as though he would die very soon. Actually, he lived to be 180 (35:28). His impatience to give Esau the blessing suggests that he was following his own carnal plans, not God's will. Had he forgotten the Word in Gen 25:23, or was he trying to change God's plan? Note how he depended on his senses (feeling, eating, smelling). Note also that feeding the body took priority over doing God's will. Isaac at one time laid himself on the altar and was willing to die for the Lord. What a change!³

1. If you had to pick a "his son" versus "her son" who would they be? Why?
2. What was the significance of Isaac's blessing being "in the presence of the Lord?" vs. 7
3. Since the deception probably would not have occurred without Rebekah, why did God allow it? Gen 25:23-24; 29-34 Since God had already predicted the outcome, why did she go to such lengths? What did it cost her to do it "her way" rather than go to God in prayer? (Gen 27:45-47) What did Jacob's sin cost him? Num 32:23
4. What can we learn from the statement, "Decisions have consequences?"
5. How do we know that God is in control? Ps 33:10-15

APPLICATION

What can you do to make good decisions? Ps 33:22; Matt 9:29

Isaac's blindness functions at the metaphorical level for the man's spiritual condition when he preferred Esau for his tasty cuisine.^{135 4}

Hebrews 12:17 indicates that Esau sought the blessing with tears, yet found no place for real repentance for his sins. Remorse, yes, but not sincere repentance. He was sorry for what he had lost, not sorry for what he had done⁵

^{1 2 4} Mathews, K. A. (2007). *Vol. 1B: Genesis 11:27-50:26* (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; The New American Commentary (427). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

^{3 5} Wiersbe, W. W. (1993). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the Old Testament* (Ge 27). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

¹³⁵ *Genesis*, 1993.

⁴ Mathews, K. A. (2007). *Vol. 1B: Genesis 11:27-50:26* (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; The New American Commentary (427). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

⁵ Wiersbe, W. W. (1993). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the Old Testament* (Ge 27). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.