



“Seeking a Father’s Blessing: Jacob in Genesis”

(5.29.22)(Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-41; 28:10-17; 32:22-32; 35:11-13)

INTRODUCTION:

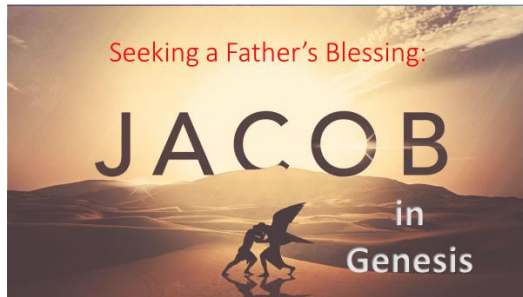
Sometimes we learn from negative examples. It is pretty amazing how God has used significantly flawed human beings in establishing His Kingdom. Maybe that is because none of us are good. No not one.

Adam and Eve could not keep one commandment. In the next generation, Cain kills Abel. Abraham and Sarah were the parents of The Chosen People, but they were fraught with faults too. In today’s texts, we see the next generation of Isaac and Rebekah failing as parents. And, Jacob and Esau are just a mess.

This should give us some comfort. Instead of being discouraged by our sinful and ungodly culture, we know that God is always at work. Even now, even today. And, even with our faults and flaws, the Lord can still use us. Of course, this is not license to abuse God’s grace, but instead it should kindle our whole-hearted love for our heavenly Father.

Today, I am not going to analyze the scripture in depth because there is too much. Let us let the story of Jacob be a mirror for us to look into and learn from.

Genesis 25:19-34
Jacob and Esau



Genesis 25:19–34 (NIV84)
Jacob and Esau

¹⁹ This is the account of Abraham's son Isaac.

Abraham became the father of Isaac, ²⁰ and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel

the Aramean from Paddan Aram and sister of Laban the Aramean.

²¹ Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was barren. The Lord answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. ²² The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the Lord.

²³ The Lord said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,

and two peoples from within you will be separated;

one people will be stronger than the other,

and the older will serve the younger."

²⁴ When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. ²⁵ The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. ²⁶ After this, his brother came out, with

his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them.

²⁷ The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was a quiet man, staying among the tents. ²⁸ Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. ³⁰ He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!" (That is why he was also called Edom.)

³¹ Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright."

³² "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?"

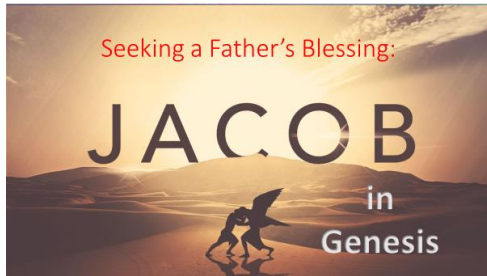
³³ But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob.

³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left.

So Esau despised his birthright.

BRIEF EXPOSITION

Genesis 27:1-41
Jacob Gets Isaac's Blessing



Genesis 27:1–41 (NIV84) *Jacob Gets Isaac's Blessing*

27 When Isaac was old and his eyes were so weak that he could no longer see, he called for Esau his older son and said to him, "My son."

"Here I am," he answered.

² Isaac said, "I am now an old man and don't know the day of my death. ³ Now then, get your weapons—your quiver and bow—and go out to the open country to hunt some wild game for me. ⁴ Prepare me the kind of tasty food I like and bring it to me to eat, so that I may give you my blessing before I die."

⁵ Now Rebekah was listening as Isaac spoke to his son Esau. When Esau left for the open country to hunt game and bring it back, ⁶ Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "Look, I overheard your father say to your brother Esau, ⁷ 'Bring me some game and prepare me some tasty food to eat, so that I may give you my blessing in the presence of the Lord before I die.' ⁸ Now, my son, listen carefully and do what I tell you: ⁹ Go out to the flock and bring me two choice young goats, so I can prepare some tasty food for your father, just the way he likes it. ¹⁰ Then take it to your father to eat, so that he may give you his blessing before he dies."

¹¹ Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "But my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I'm a man with smooth skin. ¹² What if my father touches me? I would appear to be

tricking him and would bring down a curse on myself rather than a blessing.”

¹³ His mother said to him, “My son, let the curse fall on me. Just do what I say; go and get them for me.”

¹⁴ So he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and she prepared some tasty food, just the way his father liked it. ¹⁵ Then Rebekah took the best clothes of Esau her older son, which she had in the house, and put them on her younger son Jacob. ¹⁶ She also covered his hands and the smooth part of his neck with the goatskins. ¹⁷ Then she handed to her son Jacob the tasty food and the bread she had made.

¹⁸ He went to his father and said, “My father.”

“Yes, my son,” he answered. “Who is it?”

¹⁹ Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat some of my game so that you may give me your blessing.”

²⁰ Isaac asked his son, “How did you find it so quickly, my son?”

“The Lord your God gave me success,” he replied.

²¹ Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Come near so I can touch you, my son, to know whether you really are my son Esau or not.”

²² Jacob went close to his father Isaac, who touched him and said, “The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau.” ²³ He did not recognize him, for his hands were hairy like those of his brother Esau; so he blessed him. ²⁴ “Are you really my son Esau?” he asked.

"I am," he replied.

²⁵ Then he said, "My son, bring me some of your game to eat, so that I may give you my blessing."

Jacob brought it to him and he ate; and he brought some wine and he drank. ²⁶ Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come here, my son, and kiss me."

²⁷ So he went to him and kissed him. When Isaac caught the smell of his clothes, he blessed him and said,

"Ah, the smell of my son
is like the smell of a field
that the Lord has blessed.

²⁸ May God give you of heaven's dew
and of earth's richness—
an abundance of grain and new wine.

²⁹ May nations serve you
and peoples bow down to you.
Be lord over your brothers,
and may the sons of your mother bow down to you.
May those who curse you be cursed
and those who bless you be blessed."

³⁰ After Isaac finished blessing him and Jacob had scarcely left his father's presence, his brother Esau came in from hunting. ³¹ He too prepared some tasty food and brought it to his father. Then he said to him, "My father,

sit up and eat some of my game, so that you may give me your blessing.”

³² His father Isaac asked him, “Who are you?”

“I am your son,” he answered, “your firstborn, Esau.”

³³ Isaac trembled violently and said, “Who was it, then, that hunted game and brought it to me? I ate it just before you came and I blessed him—and indeed he will be blessed!”

³⁴ When Esau heard his father’s words, he burst out with a loud and bitter cry and said to his father, “Bless me—me too, my father!”

³⁵ But he said, “Your brother came deceitfully and took your blessing.”

³⁶ Esau said, “Isn’t he rightly named Jacob? He has deceived me these two times: He took my birthright, and now he’s taken my blessing!” Then he asked, “Haven’t you reserved any blessing for me?”

³⁷ Isaac answered Esau, “I have made him lord over you and have made all his relatives his servants, and I have sustained him with grain and new wine. So what can I possibly do for you, my son?”

³⁸ Esau said to his father, “Do you have only one blessing, my father? Bless me too, my father!” Then Esau wept aloud.

³⁹ His father Isaac answered him,

“Your dwelling will be

away from the earth’s richness,

away from the dew of heaven above.

40 You will live by the sword
and you will serve your brother.
But when you grow restless,
you will throw his yoke
from off your neck.”

41 Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him. He said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob.”

BRIEF EXPOSITION

Comedian Michael Jr. –
The Father’s Voice: a short video



Comedian Michael Jr. – The Father’s Voice: [Delivery Room | Kinda Deep | Michael Jr - YouTube](#)

The Kendrick brothers have created and produced several Christian films over the years. We had a showing here in our sanctuary of “War Room,” a wonderful story of prayer and fighting for family. Another of their films, “Courageous,” relates directly to this sermon series and I **HIGHLY** recommend it to you. Here is a description:

“Four men, one calling: To serve and protect. As law enforcement officers, they are confident and focused. Yet

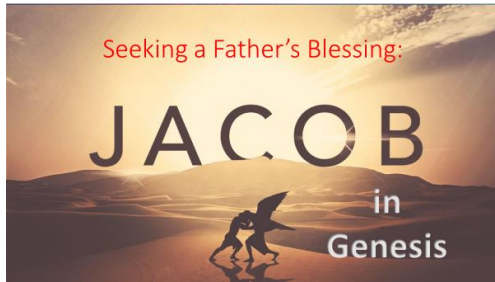
at the end of the day, they face a challenge that none of them are truly prepared to tackle: fatherhood. While they consistently give their best on the job, good enough seems to be all they can muster as dads. When tragedy hits home, they are left wrestling with their hopes, their fears, their faith, and their fathering. Can a newfound urgency help these dads draw closer to God ... and to their children?"

Their latest film is a documentary called "Show Me The Father." In that film, they share that all three of the Kendrick brothers received a blessing from their father at their weddings. They showed some actual clips of those blessings. It was powerful and touching.

In that same film, Pastor Tony Evans shared that one of the most powerful responses he has received came from a sermon he did on Jacob and all men's need of their father's blessing. And, that motivated today's sermon for me.

Because of Jacob's fear of his brother's vow of revenge, Rebekah decides this would be a good time for him to leave and go back to her people to find a wife. That too is a highly instructive story, but we do not have time for it today. We will only look at the scriptures at the start of the journey and the closing of the journey.

Genesis 28:10-17
Jacob's Dream at Bethel



Genesis 28:10–17 (NIV84) *Jacob's Dream at Bethel*

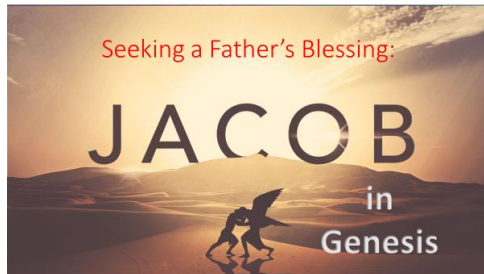
¹⁰ Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. ¹¹ When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the

stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. ¹² He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ There above it stood the Lord, and he said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. ¹⁴ Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. ¹⁵ I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

¹⁶ When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." ¹⁷ He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

BRIEF EXPOSITION

Genesis 32:22–32
Jacob Wrestles With God



Genesis 32:22–32 (NIV84) *Jacob Wrestles With God*

²² That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maidservants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ After he had sent them

across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. ²⁴ So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. ²⁶ Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."

But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

²⁷ The man asked him, "What is your name?"

"Jacob," he answered.

²⁸ Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome."

²⁹ Jacob said, "Please tell me your name."

But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there.

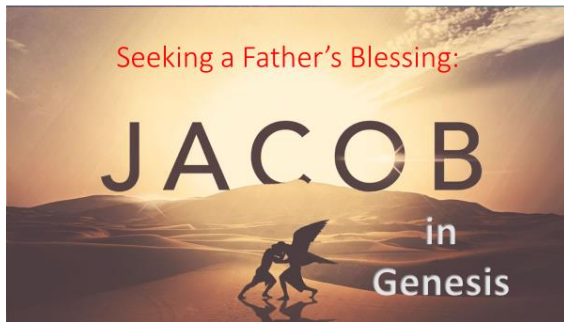
³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."

³¹ The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip. ³² Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the tendon attached to the

socket of the hip, because the socket of Jacob's hip was touched near the tendon.

BRIEF EXPOSITION

Genesis 35:11–13
God's Blessing of Jacob



Genesis 35:11–13 (NIV84)

¹¹ And God said to him, "I am God Almighty; be fruitful and increase in number. A nation and a community of nations will come from you, and kings will come from your body. ¹²

The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I also give to you, and I will give this land to your descendants after you." ¹³ Then God went up from him at the place where he had talked with him.

Fathers should be in the business of blessing their children. This blessing can cover a broad spectrum. The specific blessing for each child and the different circumstances may vary widely, but they all will have common characteristics. The child needs the father's affirmation and encouragement. The child needs to know they have the love and support of their father. The child needs to know that you are invested in them.

Let me give you a simple example that you can apply widely. I was in Brigantine a week ago and I pulled up to the basketball court there, which is part of Shark Park. There were five boys playing basketball. They probably ranged in age from 10-13 years old. I didn't see any adult with them, though later one of their father's got out of a truck parked at the other end of the lot.

I got my ball and went onto the court and I asked them if they wanted to play three on three. They eagerly agreed to play and decided to pick teams.

After picking the teams, my captain asked me what they should call me. I told him, Pastor Don. "So does that mean you are a pastor?" He asked. "Yes, I am," I replied. "What does a pastor do?" he continued. "I'm still trying to figure that out," I said. No, I didn't say that. Instead, I said, "Preach and lead the church in worship." Of course, the question may indicate an unfamiliarity with church.

So, we started to play basketball, well of a sort. It quickly became evident that they had little idea of how to play the game. I stopped the game several times to explain aspects of the game: this is the proper way to play defense; this is how you throw a bounce pass; you get the idea. While giving instructions, I would ask their names and made sure they understood.

One of the boys seemed even less experienced than the others. He kept making excuses for his numerous mistakes, but I kept encouraging him. At one point, he asked if he could just sit down and watch. I told him no, that he was doing fine and learning to play; just keep trying. Towards the end, I instructed the other boys to allow him to shoot the ball undefended and after several tries he made it, to the applause of the others.

After the game, my captain thanked me for playing with them. All of the boys genuinely appreciated the instruction and the chance to play. Then the aforementioned father got out of his truck. He made a

comment about the boys giving the “old man” (by which, I think he meant me) a run for his money. I just replied that they had a good time learning.

The takeaways - Invest time in the children. Time is finite; invest it well. Be encouraging and affirming. If the child shares an interest of yours, great. But, they may have vastly different interests. You will have to be intentional and creative in how you demonstrate your support and love for them. It may be your presence. Likely, it will require you learning something about their interest. Listen to them talk about it and ask them questions. Be as interactive as you can be.

CONCLUSION:

Our heavenly Father has demonstrated the significance of blessing our children – most notably when God the Father professes love and approval of God the Son.

Matthew 3:16–17 (NIV84)

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Matthew 17:1–5 (NIV84) *The Transfiguration*

17 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ² There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes

became as white as the light. ³ Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

⁴ Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

⁵ While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”

Fathers, ensure you know your children. Fathers, make sure you affirm your children. Fathers, openly confess your love for your children. Fathers, proclaim a blessing over your children. Men, maybe you don't have any biological children; but there are certainly children for whom you can be a godly mentor.

Amen and amen. Let us pray.