

These Kids Are Going to be the Death of Me: Jacob, Esau & Isaac

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Genesis 25–26 gives us a front-row seat to a family marked by tension, jealousy, and conflict, but also by God's faithful presence. These chapters reveal how what we value shapes our decisions and how peace is possible even in the midst of relational strain. This sermon invites us to learn from Isaac's journey and pursue a better way through God's wisdom and grace.

WHAT YOU VALUE WILL AFFECT WHAT YOU'LL DO

Genesis 25

1 After Abraham's death...21 Isaac prayed...on behalf of his wife, because she was childless. The Lord answered his prayer...23 [&] said..., "Two nations are in your womb...and the older will serve the younger." 24 ...there were twin boys in her womb...27 The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents. 28 Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob... 29 Once when Jacob was cooking...Esau...30 said..."let me have some...stew! I'm famished!" ...31 Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright." 33...So he swore an oath to him...34 Esau despised his birthright.

1. If you value your marriage, prayer should be your first move, not your last resort.
2. If you value your kids, show them no favoritism.
3. If you value your future, don't sell it for stew.

Hebrews 12:16-17, See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. Even though he sought the blessing with tears, he could not change what he had done.

HOW TO PURSUE PEACE IN TIMES OF CONFLICT

Genesis 26

1 there was a famine, besides the previous famine, and Isaac went to...Gerar. 2 The Lord appeared...and said, ...3 Stay in this land...and I will be with you and will bless you...I will give all these lands...7 When the men of that place asked...about his wife, he said, "She is my sister,"...10 Abimelek said, "What is this you have done? One of the men might well have slept with your wife...12 Isaac planted crops...and reaped a hundredfold...14 He had so many flocks...the Philistines envied 15...all the wells that his father's servants had dug...the Philistines stopped up...16 Abimelek said, "Move away from us; you have become too powerful..." 17 So Isaac moved...18 Isaac reopened the wells that had been dug in the time of his father...19 Isaac's servants...discovered...fresh water ...20 But the herders of Gerar quarreled...and said, "The water is ours!" So he named the well Esek...21 they dug another well, but...quarreled over that one...so he named it Sitnah. 22 He...dug another well, and no one quarreled over it. He named it Rehoboth, saying, "Now the Lord has given us room...23 From there he went up to Beersheba. 24 That night the Lord appeared ...and said, "I am the God of your father...Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you...26 Abimelek had come to him from Gerar...27 Isaac asked, "Why have you come to me, since you were hostile to me...?"28 "We saw clearly that the Lord was with you; so we said, '...Let us make a treaty ...30 Isaac...made a feast...32 That day Isaac's servants came and told him about the well they had dug &...said, "We've found water!" 33 He called it Shibah...

1. Look at your past - recognize the programming you got from your parents.
2. Look at your reasons - is the fight really worth it?

Proverbs 20:3, It is to one's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.

3. Look to God's promises - His provision helps us endure.

4. Look at who hurt you - they're just a sinner like you.

Hebrews 12:14, Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

2 Timothy 2:24, And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.

5. Look behind the scenes - the real battle might be spiritual.

Ephesians 6:12, For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

6. Look up - Jesus is still in control even in hard seasons.

Job 1:21, The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.

7. Look forward - trials can draw you closer to God.

8. Look within - conflict is God's tool for maturity.

Matthew 5:43-48, "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

9. Look around - people are watching how you respond.

10. Look at the cost - peace always comes at a price.

1 Peter 2:20-23, ...if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God...When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

Matthew 5:9, Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.