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STORIES OF
FAITHFULNESS

Troublesome Trickery

GENESIS 27:1-40

Stories of Sinfulness

- Adam and Eve
- Cain
- Noah
- Abraham and Sarah
- Lot, his wife and daughters
- Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob and Esau

- Isaac was growing old and blind and feared death. He told Esau to go hunting and prepare his favorite meal, after which, he would bestow his patriarchal blessing on him (even though God had already declared it would go to Jacob).
- Rebekah overheard the conversation and devised a plan to deceive Isaac. She would cook a meal and Jacob would dress in Esau's clothes and animal skins to deceive Isaac.

- When the meal was prepared, Jacob (pretending to be Esau) lied to his father, and through this deception, received the patriarchal blessing of his father.
- When Esau returned, Isaac and Esau discovered the deception. Esau becomes bitter and plans on killing Jacob after his father's death. Rebekah sends Jacob away to live in the land of Haran.



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Sin Takes Hold

Sin is rampant in the lives of all four characters: Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Esau

Genesis 27:1-4

“When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called Esau his older son and said to him, ‘My son ... Behold, I am old; I do not know the day of my death. Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me, and prepare for me delicious food, such as I love, and bring it to me so that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die.’” (ESV)



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The Sin of Isaac

He wants to secretly dispense his blessing
to Esau

Genesis 25:23

“And the LORD said to her, ‘Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger.’” (ESV)

Isaac's Sin

- Instead of trusting God's decree (that the older would serve the younger), he attempted to secretly bless Esau (his favorite son) out of self-will
- This is the nature of sin—doing what we want rather than what God wants
- Sin is spelled S-I-N



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The Sin of Rebekah

She uses deception to secure what God
had already promised

Genesis 27:5-17

“Now Rebekah was listening ... Rebekah said to her son Jacob ... ‘obey my voice as I command you. Go to the flock and bring me two good young goats, so that I may prepare from them delicious food for your father, such as he loves. And you shall bring it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he dies’ ... Then Rebekah took the best garments of Esau ... and put them on Jacob ... And the skins of the young goats ... And she put the delicious food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.” (ESV)

Rebekah's Sin

- She plotted evil and deception, in an attempt to bring about the promise of God



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The Sin of Jacob

He uses the name of God to bolster his
deception

Genesis 27:18-24

“So he went in to his father and said ... ‘I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me’ ... But Isaac said ... ‘How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?’ He answered, ‘Because the Lord your God granted me success.’ Then Isaac said to Jacob, ‘Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not.’ So Jacob went near to Isaac his father ... He said, ‘Are you really my son Esau?’ He answered, ‘I am.’” (ESV)

Jacob's Sin

- He misleads his aged father
- He uses robes stolen from his brother
- He uses skins of an animal
- He offers a meal he has not cooked
- He adds lie upon lie with ever increasing detail
- Ultimately, he drags the name of God into his ploy—“Your God has granted me success”



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The Sin of Esau

He allows a root of bitterness to grow
within him

Genesis 27:41

“Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, ‘The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob.’” (ESV)

Genesis 27:34

“As soon as Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry and said to his father, ‘Bless me, even me also, O my father!’” (ESV)

Hebrews 12:15-17

“See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble ... like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.” (ESV)



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Sin's Consequences

“For the wages of sin is death ...” (Rom 6:23)

Sin's Consequences

- **It brings about broken relationships**

Sin's Consequences

- It brings about broken relationships
- **It results in poor choices**

Sin's Consequences

- It brings about broken relationships
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- **It causes bitterness and anger**

Sin's Consequences

- It brings about broken relationships
- It results in poor choices
- It causes bitterness and anger
- **It's damage spreads far beyond those immediately involved**

Hebrews 12:15-16

“See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no ‘root of bitterness’ springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled ... like Esau ...” (ESV)

Applications

- God uses people with faults
- God's purposes will prevail despite human flaws and scheming
- When we fail, we must turn to God in repentance
- We must commit to being people of integrity
- God loves you and doesn't want you to go through the pain of broken relationships



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Troublesome Trickery

We must commit to becoming people of integrity no matter what the situation

Next Steps

- I am thankful that God uses people with faults, just like me
- I will confess my failures and repent of my sin today
- I will accept God's forgiveness and seek reconciliation with _____
- I will commit to a life of integrity and ask my church family to help me