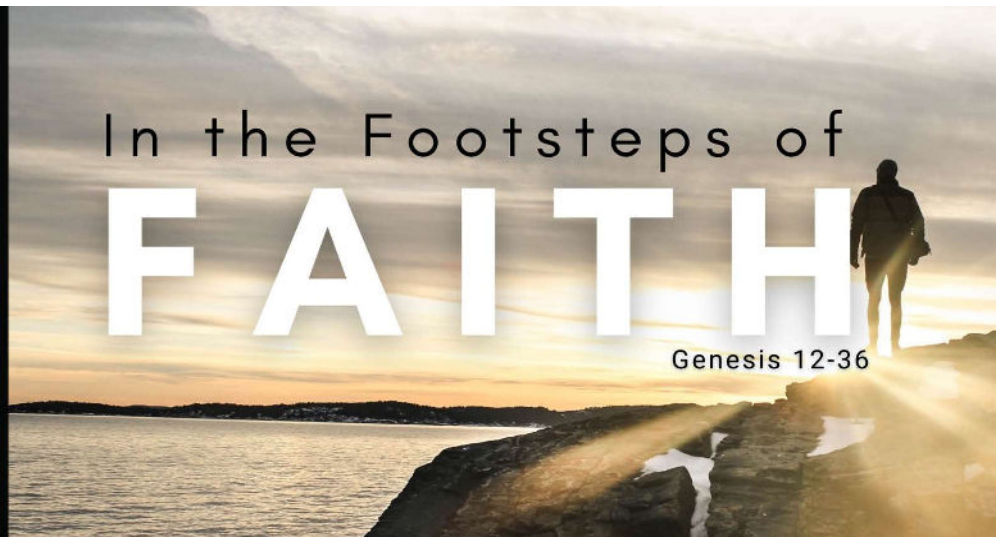




Midweek Study

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Devotion and Deception

(Genesis 25:19-26:17)

Less is written about Isaac than Abraham and Jacob, though he lived longer than either. Thomas states, "He was the ordinary son of a great father, and the ordinary father of a great son."¹

The Faithful **Bride** (Genesis 25:19-22)

Isaac is 40 years old when he marries Rebekah. Warren Wiersbe writes, "[W]e have every reason to believe that they were both devoted to the Lord and to each other. The record indicates that Rebekah was the more aggressive of the two when it came to family matters, but perhaps that's just the kind of wife Isaac needed. Whatever mistakes Isaac may have made as a husband and father, this much is true: As a young man, he willingly put himself on the altar to obey his father and to please the Lord (chap. 22; Rom. 12:1-2)."²

V.22 says the babies in the womb "jostled each other" (NIV). In Hebrew, it meant "to crush or oppress." Rebekah felt discomfort, which caused her to pray.

The Flawed **Boys** (Genesis 25:23-27)

Wiersbe continues, "Esau probably means 'hairy.' He also had the nickname 'Edom,' which means 'red,' referring to his red hair and the red lentil soup Jacob sold him (vv. 25, 30)... The name 'Jacob' comes from a Hebrew word (*yaaqob*) that means 'may God protect'; but because it sounds like the words *aqeb* ('heel') and *aqab* ('watch from behind' or 'overtake'), his name became a nickname: 'he grasps the heel' or 'he deceives.' Before birth, Jacob and Esau had contended; and at birth, Jacob grasped his brother's heel."³

Jacob's flaw – Trying to accomplish God's plan through his own schemes.

Esau's flaw – Not esteeming God's blessing nor His commands.

¹ W.H. Griffith Thomas, *Genesis: A Devotional Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1953), 237-238.

² Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Authentic*, "Be" Commentary Series (Colorado Springs, CO: Chariot Victor Pub., 1997), 12.

³ *Ibid.*, 13-14.

The Family Birthright (Genesis 25:28-34)

Hebrews 12:16–17 - ¹⁶lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. ¹⁷For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

“profane” is translated “godless” (NIV). It’s the opposite of a sanctified or consecrated person.

The Foolish Behavior (Genesis 26:1-11)

Same place (Genesis 26:1-5) Philistia

Same problem (Genesis 26:6-7) He lies to Abimelech

Same punishment (Genesis 26:8-17)

HOWEVER, Same promise (Genesis 26:12-17)

The Financial Blessing (Genesis 26:12-17)

See Proverbs 16:7 and 2 Timothy 2:13.

Applications:

- 1) **Prayer should be based on the promises of God.** We can pray with confidence when we know the will of God. Isaac’s requests were based on the promises of God. God had promised the seed of Abraham (through Isaac) would be as numerous as the stars and the sand. Isaac trusted God’s promises. (See Hebrews 6:12)
- 2) **Don’t allow your flesh to dominate your spirit.** Esau forfeited his birthright for a bowl of soup. He allowed his body to dictate what is most important in life. (See 1 Corinthians 9:27)
- 3) **The ends do not justify the means.**⁴ Though Jacob was noble in desiring the birthright, he went about grasping it in a dishonorable way. He should have trusted God that God would give this to him in time. (For example: David chose to lean on the sovereignty of God when others wanted him to kill Saul. *God’s will in God’s time* should be our mantra.)
- 4) **Don’t despise your spiritual birthright!** The word “despise” doesn’t mean “hate,” but rather “to esteem lightly.” Esau didn’t properly value the birthright. Realize you are a child of the King of Kings. Realize all of heaven’s resources are yours. Realize God has blessed you with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ. (See 2 Peter 1:3-4 and Hebrews 8:6)

⁴ Thomas, Genesis, 235.