

Genesis 27:1-46

"God Will Get It Done"

Again & again the bible exhorts us to trust in the providential care of God. That God will get His will done, His way in our lives. That we don't need to fret over the cunning craftiness & trickery of man, but we should have faith in the fact that God is in control.

We read things like, *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths."*¹ That is, God is able to get His will done in your life whether you understand how it's going to work out or not. God has said, *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.'"*² Which is to say that we're only deceiving ourselves if we think we're always going to get it, when God is at work there will be times that we can't see how it's all going to come together. He's thinking on an entirely different level that's not even attainable to you & me.

Let me give you another one, *"Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! 'For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?'"*³ I can't speak for you, but I've sure tried ☺. I always think I've got a great plan, or that my way will get it done, "God, why don't you do *this*, or how about you do *that*?" Essentially what I'm saying is that I think my way is better than His way. Yet the bible says, *"There are many plans in a man's heart, nevertheless, the Lord's counsel—that will stand"* Prov. 19:21

Can I just say that God doesn't need my advice ☺? & He *definitely* doesn't need my help. So often when I feel like it's an impossible situation, I gotta get in there & help God out. But how many of you realize that we serve a God who specializes in the impossible? Who is able to make a way when there is no way... Why then do we presume to have to *help God out* when we can't *figure it out*? He doesn't need my slick wit to bring His purposes to pass.

In Gen Ch 27 there is both planning & plotting, there are decisions & deceptions, scamming & scheming. There is fraud & foul play but little to no faith. It's the narrative of a family that fragments because they choose to move on the basis of how they *feel* rather than by *faith* in God's word. Notice.

Vs 1-4

¹ The New King James Version. (1982). (Pr 3:5-6). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

² The New King James Version. (1982). (Is 55:8-9). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

³ The New King James Version. (1982). (Ro 11:33-34). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Anyone seeing anything wrong w/this scenario? Do you remember what God told Rebekah back in Ch 25? She was worried about her pregnancy, something didn't seem right, so she went to inquire of the Lord & He told her, "2 nations are in your womb, 2 people shall be separated from your body; 1 people shall be stronger than the other, & the older shall serve the younger." (25:23)

If God made it known that the blessing would go to the younger, that the older would serve the younger, why then (now that Isaac believes he might pass shortly from the scene) does he seek to give the blessing to the older, to Esau?

Is it possible that Rebekah never told Isaac what the Lord had revealed to her? Possible, but not probable. It seems more likely to me that he was simply being governed (at this point) by his flesh; driven by the desire of his belly. When you study Isaac's life he falls in line w/several men in the scriptures that began well, but didn't finish so strong. Oh, he was saved, but his life ended in ambiguity, under a cloud of uncertainty. We say it from time to time around here but it's so important that we finish well. It's one thing to hear, "Well begun," but it's another thing altogether to hear, "Well *done* good & faithful servant." & *That's the mark that we're all aiming for.*

But before we get to entirely down on Isaac for knowing what God has said yet doing just the opposite... how many of us have found ourselves in the same situation? You know that God's word says that we're to let no filthy language proceed from our mouths yet when you get mad the expletives start flying. Or that we're not to lie to one another, you know that the bible calls us to serve one another, to be involved in the edifying & increase of the kingdom, but it's easier to just hang out idly & let others bear the burden... You guys are we really all that different? I pray we are, I fear... not so much. We know what God has said, we simply fail to do it (for whatever reason, we succumb to the impulse of the flesh rather than the *conviction* of the Spirit & the *direction* of the word of God).

Having said all that there's something there in Vs 2 that we do well to draw attention to & I would encourage you to underline it & consider it carefully. Isaac says, "I do not know the day of my death..." Of course if he was really concerned you'd think he would've been concerned about the covenant & securing the future of his family, instead all he can think about is a hardy meal & blessing his favorite boy.

Question: what are *you* doing to prepare for the day of your death? Listen, what Isaac said of himself, you can say equally of yourself. "I do not know the day of my death."

“Now therefore_____” fill in the blank, what’s the critical concern for you?

The savory foods, & temporary pleasures of this life? Or are you preparing for the day that you see Jesus with your eyes? Doing what you can do to safeguard the spiritual lineage that God has given you?

Listen; the bible is clear, “*..it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,*”⁴ We don’t know the day, all we know is that it’s coming. We like to *convince* ourselves that it’s a long way off; the truth is that it may be closer than we think.

One thing is certain. Regardless of how long we may live, life is at best brief. Wise is the one who realizes that. That’s why Moses said, “*So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.*”⁵ Redeeming the time, *making our lives count for eternity.* James said, “*For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.*”⁶ That’s why it’s so critical that you & I take the earliest opportunity we have to settle the sin dilemma. Our sin separates us from God. But God has made a way, He’s bridged the gap between sinful man & Himself through the cross of J.C. & has said that if we will just turn from our sin & trust in Him we will never perish but have everlasting life. You see there’s an urgency; today is the day of salvation, don’t put it off, you do not know the day of your death.

It’s interesting that Isaac thought he could die anytime. There’s a little discrepancy about his age right here, most believe he was 137 (which is the age his brother Ishmael died). But Isaac will live to be 180 yrs old. At least 43 more yrs. Other’s think they’ll live for yrs but die suddenly, even in their youth. Wise is the one who is prepared, having received J.C. into their heart by faith.

Vs 5-10

Interesting isn’t it? God told her that Jacob would receive the blessing. But she sees that Isaac’s intentions are to give it to Esau. So rather than resting upon the promises of God, perhaps praying & confronting her husband on the matter she immediately begins scheming & plotting on how to ensure that Jacob gets what God has promised him.

But do you see what’s happening here? Isaac is scheming in trying to “slide” the blessing to Esau when no one is looking (P.S. God is *always* looking). Rebekah is plotting/scheming in seeking to deceive her husband into believing that Jacob is Esau, put these ingredients together, pop them in the oven & see what comes out, it won’t be good!

⁴ The New King James Version. (1982). (Heb 9:27). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁵ The New King James Version. (1982). (Ps 90:12). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁶ The New King James Version. (1982). (Jas 4:14). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

It was Sir Walter Scott who coined the phrase, “O what a tangled web we weave, when 1st we practice to deceive.” Think about it, the only way to verify or cover up a lie, is to add more lies to it; it just keeps building on itself.

Now Jacob did live up to his name, he *was* a schemer, a deceiver... my question is do you think that practice was unique to him? Whose idea was this whole scam? *It was his mama’s. We can only hope that our children pick up on some of the positive attributes that God may’ve graced us with. But don’t think for a second they aren’t aware of our bad habits, or learning from sinful situations in our lives. (Remember the commercial, “Parents who use drugs, have children who use drugs.”*

It seems to me that no one here is really believing God’s Word. God said that Jacob would receive the blessing, but it looks like it might go the other direction so everyone is getting in there & scrambling to ensure that that won’t happen. Why not trust in the Lord? Instead there’s the feeling that, “If I don’t make this happen it’s not going to happen.” How guilty we can be of that...

Now in a certain respect we can concede to the fact that Rebekah is seeking to ensure that God’s will is done. The problem is that she’s not going about it God’s way. God isn’t only about getting done the right thing, He’s also about getting the thing done right... Or to understand that another way, God’s will/work must be done God’s way.

Moses knew it was God’s will for him to lead Israel, but when he killed the Egyptian & buried him in the sand thinking that would cause people to rally around him he quickly discovered it wasn’t going to work that way. It’s was God’s will for him to lead, but not in that way. Write it down, look it up later 2 Sam 6. David would learn the same lesson, God’s will needs to be done God’s way.

Question, who has the power to bless? Is it man or is it God? So if God has said that Jacob would be blessed, regardless of what Isaac says, who will be blessed? Jacob.

Ok, real quick look at Vs 8 (read). She informs Jacob of her plans to deceive his dad & then tells him that he’s going to be an accomplice, she tells him to obey her in the matter. Should he have done that? No way. When there’s a conflict between God’s word/ways & man’s word/ways, who’s word are we to obey? God’s (Acts 5:29). Now the book of Eph (6:1) exhorts children to obey there parents, however the qualifying context is “in the Lord.” *“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.”*⁷ We’re never called to submit to sin...

Vs 11-17

⁷ The New King James Version. (1982). (Eph 6:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Do you see what I mean when I say that the whole family is defrauding one another, deceiving & scheming? It blows us away to realize that Jacob's concern wasn't for integrity, or God's glory. He was just worried that it might not work & in so doing he might incur his father's wrath rather than his blessing. He says, "Esau is all hairy, I'm smooth skinned, what if dad feels me & I seem to him to be a deceiver?" Uh... "seem to be"? There's nothing "seeming" about this Jacob, that's exactly what you are.

Listen, when you're willing to abandon the question of right & wrong & only concern yourself w/the question of if it'll work... can I get away w/it, is it safe... there should be major red lights flashing in your mind/heart.

Rebekah is ascribing to the philosophy that the end justifies the means, it does not. There is no place for deceit in the life of the child of God. Satan is the deceiver; J.C. is the truth (Jhn 14:6). The Psalmist declared, "*Blessed is the man ... in whose spirit there is no deceit.*"⁸

Vs 18-27a

In the 9th Vs of the 3rd Ch of the book of Col the bible says very plainly, "Do not lie to one another." Here Jacob laid one lie over the other to seek to convince his dad of his deception. He even came to the point whereby he invoked the name of God to underscore his sin!

People do this all the time, it's amazing the sin that some people will justify by informing you that God gave them the green light. Or that God led them to do; listen, if it goes against the grain of God's word, God's not leading you to do it. I don't care what it is, or how you may feel in the midst of the situation. This entire family will fragment & fall apart because they chose to walk by how they felt rather than simply keep faith in God's Word.

Lie #1, "I am Esau, your 1st born." Lie #2, "I have done just as you told me." Lie #3, "Eat of my game." Oh there was game involved, but it wasn't the venison Isaac thought it was, it was the game of Jacob's deceit. Lie #4 "How did you get this done so quick?" "Oh, I no sooner stepped outside & the Lord your God had placed that deer right in my path." "God brought it to pass." He used God as a smoke screen to cover his sin.

Lie #5, "Are you really my son Esau?" "I am." Then finally the kiss of deceit, he seals the deal. Isaac is deceived by his senses, what he "felt", don't miss that.

⁸ The New King James Version. (1982). (Ps 32:2). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Now I want to say something about Vs 20. Jacob uses the phrase, “The Lord your God.” I don’t want to presume upon him at this point but why didn’t he say, “The Lord my God.” Make no mistake, God will make Himself very real to Jacob in the days to come, but is there a hint here that perhaps Jacob didn’t know the Lord yet?

I can’t stress enough that the Lord needs to be “your” God. You will not get to heaven on the basis of your parents or your pastor’s relationship w/or knowledge of God. You have to have a personal encounter w/God for yourself. You have to receive J.C. into your life personally. You need to know He’s found you, forgiven you & changed your life.

One more quick thing here. We need to see that Jacob puts on a disguise, hoping to fool his father & receive a blessing. Even so we need to be careful that we’re not in a place whereby we’re seeking to put on a spiritual disguise, trying to pretend to be someone we’re not, trying to fool our heavenly Father so as to receive His blessing. **God sees through the surface, man looks to the outward appearance, allows his senses to deceive him, but God searches what? The heart. Isaac says to Jacob...**

Vs 27b-29

It’s a blessing of material, political & spiritual wealth. Now again we want to see the fact that it wasn’t what Isaac said to him that made him blessed so much as it was what God had prepared for him before he was ever born. It wasn’t that Isaac said, “Be master over your brethren.” It was that God had said, “The older shall serve the younger.”

God’s sovereign will is being accomplished even though Isaac sought in certain respects to oppose it. However there’s a sense in which Rebekah & Jacob are robbing God of greater glory due to the fact that they’re being fraudulent rather than faithful.

Vs 30-33

What a great scene, these are the things movies are made of! Jacob slips out, Esau slides in & the whole thing begins to unravel. Isaac is all, “Who are you?” “I’m Esau your 1st born!” “Than whose stew did I just eat?”

In Vs 33 we read that Isaac “trembled exceedingly”, the idea there is that of quaking in terror. It’s as if the lights came on for him & he realized that God’s sovereignty overruled his underhanded attempt at bestowing the blessing upon Esau.

Later on in the book of Heb (11) we read that by faith Isaac blessed Jacob concerning things to come. That didn’t happen so much in Vs 27-29, but rather we see it here in Vs 33 when Isaac says, “I have blessed him-& indeed *he shall be* blessed.”

Vs 34-38

Interesting how everyone likes to blame everyone else isn't it? "Sorry Esau, Jacob came w/deceit & took your blessing." Well, it's true that Jacob was deceitful, equally true is that Isaac was underhanded in what he tried to do, equally true is that Esau was underhanded in seeking to receive what he'd already given to Jacob. Jacob didn't "take away" his birthright, Esau sold it for a bowl of stew. He despised the birthright, but he wanted the blessing...

How true that is of so many today, they don't want to be responsible or accountable spiritually, but they want to be blessed materially.

Esau starts wailing w/what the bible describes as an "exceedingly great & bitter cry" bitterness fills his heart, be careful, bitterness is poison.

Btw, don't envision these boys as 20 something, they're in their mid to upper 70's at this point. Now the life span was about double as it is today, but be that as it may, these aren't kids squabbling here.

Question, why was Esau weeping & wailing at this point? It seems as though he's crushed over the fact that he's missing out on what could've been his, the covenant, the birthright... Leave Genesis 27 & turn quickly to **Heb 12** (14-17).

Notice again the attention drawn to the destructive nature of bitterness in a person's life. Now if you're not careful you might read this & think, "How unfortunate, Esau really tried to repent, he wept & everything, yet he was rejected." Not so, Esau was filled w/regret, that much is true, but not repentance. It wasn't repentance he sought diligently w/tears, it was the blessing. He wasn't sorry for what he'd done, but he was sorry for what he'd lost. He wanted the blessing, he just didn't want to be the kind of man that God could bless.

He wanted the blessing, but he didn't want to repent. Listen, there has never been a man who has truly repented that God has rejected. The bible is clear, "*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.*"⁹ You cannot come to God w/a broken spirit, a contrite heart over your sin but that He won't receive you. God receives the repentant, every time, there's never an exception.

Being sorry isn't enough, we've got to turn from our sin. God doesn't want you just to feel bad for your sin, He wants you to turn from it.

⁹ The New King James Version. (1982). (Ps 51:17). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Vs 39-46

Sad really, she's just continuing to deceive here. She's worried for Jacob's life so she acts worried about the possibility of Jacob marrying a pagan like Esau has done & so she's urging Isaac to send him back to her family to get a wife.

Everyone is expecting Isaac to die soon & so they seek to scheme until he's gone, then they'll carry on. He's going to live another 43 yrs... at least.

Now back in Vs 13 Rebekah was all, "Let your curse be on me". I'm not saying that she received a curse for what she did, but it's interesting that what she thought would be a few days (sending Jacob to her brother's) would turn into 20 yrs & she would never see her favorite son on this side of eternity again. She would die before he returned (though Isaac will still be alive).

Let me conclude in a manner like we began. God doesn't need our help. Human wisdom, human ingenuity got involved here & what was the result? Bitterness, separation, a family fragmented, Rebekah will never see Jacob again, they all lost, no one really won here. Because none of them would simply submit to the word of God.

God will get it done, He will *use* us, but He doesn't *need* us. & When we can't see how it will happen, don't start scheming & scamming; trust in the Lord... w/*all* your heart & lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him; & He *shall* direct your paths.

Prayer Points:

God, may we trust you fully, not relying on our own ability to figure out how You're going to do what You've purposed to do. Deliver us from the temptation to scam or scheme & then think that You've done a work, when all we've done is get in Your way. The just shall live by faith, help us to finish well, to remain faithful to Your word, to the glory of Your name.

Before we close I want to draw back to mind Isaac's words to your remembrance. "I do not know the day of my death." Let me encourage you to settle the sin dilemma right here, right now. If you've not taken the time to acknowledge your sin, turn from it & trust in J.C. that you might be forgiven & prepared to see Him face to face, do so now. Today is the day of salvation.