

~~RECEIVER~~ ~~Relate~~ ~~The~~ God chooses, NOT Isaac
Genesis 27:1-41

The time came when Isaac was very old. His eyes were cloudy so that he could not see anymore. Isaac called his oldest son Esau, and said, "My son, I am old. I do not know when I will die. Would you take your bow and arrows, and go out into the fields and hunt for venison? Then bring it back and make me some of that savory meat that I love. Bring the stew to me so that I can eat it, and then I will bless you before I die."

Rebekah overheard what Isaac told Esau. She wanted that blessing for her favorite son Jacob. After all, God had promised that the blessing should go to Jacob, and Isaac was being disobedient to the Lord. She decided that she would help Jacob get the blessing, even though she would have to deceive her husband Isaac to do it.

Rebekah called Jacob and said, "Listen son, I heard your father speaking to your brother Esau. He said, 'Bring me venison, and make me savory meat, so that I can eat it, and bless you before my death.'"

Rebekah said, "Obey my voice son, and do what I tell you. Go to the flocks and get me two kids of the goats. I will make them into the savory stew that your father loves. Then YOU will take it to him and he will bless YOU instead of Esau."

Jacob answered his mother, "You know that Esau is a hairy man, and that my skin is smooth. If father feels me, he will think that I am a deceiver, and he will bring a curse on me and not a blessing."

Jacob's mother said, "The curse be on me my son, now go do what I tell you."

So Jacob did as his mother said, and she made a savory stew for Isaac. She dressed Jacob in some of Esau's clothes that she had in her tent, and she put the skins of goat on Jacob's arms and neck. Then Rebekah gave the savory meat to Jacob and sent him to his father in order to trick Isaac into giving Jacob the blessing that he had promised to Esau.

Jacob came into his father's tent with the stew, and said, "My father."

Isaac answered, and said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?"

Jacob answered, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you asked. Sit here and eat of my venison, so that your soul will bless me."

Isaac thought it a bit strange that Esau could have returned so quickly from the hunt. But Jacob told Isaac that the Lord had helped him. Still Isaac was not convinced that it was really Esau, so he called Jacob nearer. Isaac felt Jacob, and said, "The voice is Jacob's but the hands are the hands of Esau. So even though Isaac was suspicious, he was deceived into believing that Esau had brought him the stew and not Jacob.

Isaac asked again, "Are you my son Esau?"

Jacob answered, "I am."

Then Isaac said, "Bring me the venison and I will eat it, so that my soul may bless you."

Isaac ate the venison, and when Jacob came near him, he smelled the clothes of Esau, and blessed him, saying, "See, the smell of the field which the Lord has blessed. God give you the blessing of the earth. Let people serve you, and all nations respect you. Be the lord of all the family. Let every one that curses you be cursed, and let those that bless you be blessed."

As soon as Isaac finished blessing Jacob, Jacob barely having left the presence of Isaac, Esau came in from his hunting. He had prepared a savory stew that his father loved, and brought it to his father. Esau said, "Let my father rise up and eat of his son's venison, that your soul may bless me."

Isaac said, "Who are you? Where is he who brought me venison before? I ate it before you came, and I have blessed him. Yes, and he is the one who shall be blessed."

When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out loud and bitterly, "Bless me also, O my father."

But Isaac answered, "Your brother came subtly, and has taken your blessing."

Esau said, "Isn't the name Jacob perfect for him? For he has taken what is mine two times. First he took away my birthright, and now he has taken my blessing too! Isn't there some blessing that you have saved for me?"

Isaac answered, "I have made him the ruler over you. I have given all the family to serve him. I have given him the blessings of the earth. What is left to give you, my son?"

Esau said to his father, "Have you just one blessing for me? Bless me too, O my father." Then Esau began to cry.

Isaac said, "Where you live will not be the most fertile of places. You will live by the sword, and when you are strong, you will rebel against serving your brother."

After this Esau hated his brother Jacob, because Jacob had gotten the blessing rather than himself. Esau said in his heart, "When my father has died, and we are no longer in mourning, then I will kill my brother Jacob."

To lie and deceive is never justified, no matter how good we may think our reasons are. Even though God had distinctly told both Rebekah and Isaac that the blessing was to go to Jacob, and even though Isaac deliberately planned to disobey God's command and give the blessing to Esau, it was still wrong for Rebekah and Jacob to deceive Isaac. God does not need us to lie for him in order to accomplish his plan. God will accomplish his purpose. When we try to manipulate things, we cause many problems, just as Rebekah and Jacob caused many problems because of their deception. Let us remember to let God bring about his will in his way.

PRINCIPLE: It is NEVER acceptable to lie or to deceive. God is TRUTH, and he wants his people to be people of truth.

LEARN: Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another.

Ephesians 4 : 25

1. Color Jacob - cut him out attached to table.
2. Put fur on his arms and neck.
3. Paste Jacob with table in front of Isaac, so that Isaac's hand touches Jacob's fur.



