

Texts: Genesis 27:1-14, 41-42; Genesis 37:1-4

Introduction:

Unfinished Business – emotions and memories surrounding past experiences that a person has avoided or repressed.

I. Unfinished Business: Its Cause

A. Psychological Causes

1. Avoidance of past painful experiences
2. Unresolved concerns or issues (past or present)

B. Theological Causes

1. The Hawaii Factor (Gen. 1:31; 3:1-6)
2. The Cause and Effect Factor (Gen.3:7-24)

II. Unfinished Business: Its Case

A. The case of a prominent couple and their family (Gen.27:1 - 43)

Names: Isaac Rebekah Esau Jacob

Issues: Favoritism Marital Schism

Consequences: Hatred toward sibling (v.41) Prevented murder (vs. 41-43)
Father-Son alienated (vs. 41-43)

B. The case that will make headline today (Gen 37:1-11)

Names: Jacob Joseph Joseph's Brothers

Issue: Favoritism (Gen. 37:1-3)

Consequences: Jealousy Hatred Family Feud
Human Trafficking Planned Murder

III: Unfinished Business: Its Cure

A. Present Solution

1. Express
2. Decide
3. Forgive
4. Move on

B. Ultimate Solution (John 19:30; Rev. 21:1-7)

Conclusion:

1. Do you agree that all of us have or had experienced “unfinished business”?
2. What are the key words or common experiences of people with “unfinished business”? Do you agree? Do you have a story to share (personal or observed)?
3. Of the results from the case of “unfinished business” mentioned in the message, what catches your attention the most?
4. Were you surprised to know of Isaac and Rebekah’s marital schism (competing with children’s loyalty) and Jacob’s dysfunctional family? Share comments.
5. Of the different solutions to “unfinished business”, what connects to you the most? Why? Which is the most difficult to practice?
6. What is comforting to know as God’s people about the ultimate solutions to “unfinished business” in John 19:30 and Rev. 21:1-17?

PRAY!