

Sibling Rivalry

Edward Monteilh
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Intro: God's declaration to Abraham "...and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Genesis 12:3)

Act I *The Prelude*

- A. The Family** (Genesis 25:19-28)
The Parents: Isaac & Rebekah
The Twins: Esau 'Tanned n Hairy' & Jacob 'Heel Grasper'
The Favorites: Isaac & Esau Rebekah & Jacob

- B. The Prophecy** (Genesis 25:23)
Two Separate Nations
One Stronger than the Other
Oldest Will Serve the Youngest

- C. The "Deal"** (Genesis 25:29-34)
Stew for Birthright

Act II *The Deceptive Deeds*

- A. Dad Gives an Assignment** (Genesis 27:1-4)
Tasty Food for the Blessing
Just Me and You

- B. Mom Gives an Assignment** (Genesis 27:5-17)
A Disguise + Tasty Food for the Blessing
Just You and Him

- C. The Ruse is Accomplished** (Genesis 27:18-29)
Jacob Lies To and Deceives His Father
Tasty Food is Consumed / Blessing is Given
"...Be lord over your brothers..."

Act III *The Fallout* (Genesis 27:30-46)

- A. Trembling and Wailing**
- B. A Plot to Kill**
- C. A Plan to Flee**

Act IV *An Astonishing Twist* (Genesis 28)

- A. From the Lips of Isaac**
- B. From the Lips of the Lord**
- C. From the Lips of Jacob**

Concluding Reflections

1. **God's Sovereignty** – His ability to use our evil acts to accomplish His Objectives (Gen. 50:20-21; Acts 2:23)
2. **God's Grace** – Making a way for us to be members of His Family (Gal. 3:6-7; John 1:12)
3. **God's Objective** – All nations “blessed” (Gal. 3:8-9; Matthew 28:19-20)

Table Talk Questions:

1. What is something that you waited a long time for (or are still waiting)? What affect (if any) did it have on your relationship with God?
2. Have you ever wanted to “help God out” in a situation rather than trusting Him to resolve it?
3. What appetites might you need to keep in check so that your relationship with God is not affected?
4. Why is it so hard for us to trust God beyond what we can see or understand?
5. How might the example of Jacob and Esau help you to share God's grace with others?
6. What might God be saying to you regarding this message?