

For personal reflection and application:

Read Genesis 25:19-28:22. (Read through it daily over this next week).

1. Do you identify more with Jacob or Esau?
2. In what ways has God already “blessed” you?
3. In what ways have you been disappointed with God?
4. What are some ways in which your life hasn’t gone the way you envisioned it? Why do you think that is?
 - a. Your desire isn’t God’s desire.
 - b. You haven’t been willing to pay the temporary price for long-term blessing.
 - c. There is more refining God needs to do with you.
 - d. Other.

Daily Prayer:

- Pray that God will give you a desire to know Him more and become what He wants you to be.
- Pray that you will be willing to pay the price and do what’s necessary to receive God’s blessing.
- Pray for wisdom to be responsive to God’s leading.



The Blessing

Sermon Notes:

We all have a “_____” we want to be.

We want to live a life God _____.

- When we know God more fully, we become who God created us to be.
- The question: Am I willing to do what it takes to have it?

The Life of Jacob shows us:

1. God _____ to bless us.
2. His blessing is _____ us and _____ us.
3. God has to _____ us to receive His blessing.
4. The preparation is always _____, but necessary.
5. The blessing is always worth the _____.

Scripture: Genesis 25:19-34

The Background:

God made a promise to _____.

- “All the nations on earth will be blessed through you.”

_____ was the carrier of that promise.

He had twin sons, _____ and _____.

- _____ means “to grasp by the heel,” “to overtake,” or “deceiver.”

Esau

Esau was supposed to have the “_____.”

- He sold it to Jacob for some _____.
- In this culture, the story should have been about Esau.
- “So Esau _____ his birthright.” (vs 34)

Jacob

Jacob was _____.

His desire for the blessing was purely _____.

- He was still _____ God.

Over time, God refines us so we will know that what God wants for us is actually _____ for us.

Questions for Group Reflection:

1. When you think about God’s blessing, what comes to mind? How is God’s blessing different today than it was in the Old Testament?
2. What kind of life do you think people today desire? Are the desires or ambitions of Christians different than the desires of non-Christians?
3. Describe the “me” you want to be. Is the person you want to be the same as the person God wants you to be? If not, what’s the difference?
4. Why do you think it’s so hard for people to reach their goals in life—especially spiritually speaking? What are the obstacles to becoming what God wants us to be?
5. In Genesis 25:19-34, what are the differences between Jacob and Esau?
6. How are there family roles reversed by the end of the story?
7. Why do you think God rewards the passion (ambition) of Jacob even though he deceives Isaac and Esau?
8. What is the price Esau pays for his ambivalence? What is the price Jacob pays for his ambition?
9. Which error are you more likely to fall into—Esau’s ambivalence about spiritual things or Jacob’s ambition and tendency to take the blessing on his own terms?
10. Why doesn’t God just magically make us who He wants us to be?
11. What are some of the areas God may need to refine you in order to be who God wants you to be? What price might you have to pay?
12. Are you willing?