

# Sermon Outlines

## Jacob - Part 2 - Waiting on God

### Introduction

- 1) In the last paper, consideration was given to the birth and naming of the boys.
- 2) Thank God our names have been changed and we long for that day when we shall be made like the Lord.
- 3) This paper considers the differences in the boys and how the parent's home life seemed to affect them.

### Verse 27

When friends meet each other after some time, they often ask how their families are, in other words, "How did they turn out?"

- a) How did Jacob and Esau turn out?

### Esau

- 1) "*So the boys grew: and Esau was a skilful hunter*
  - a) The Old King James says he was a "cunning hunter," the actual Hebrew word is Yada - it's the verb "to know." Esau was a knowledgeable hunter. He wasn't easily tricked, he was skilful and cunning, he knew how to track, trap, and how to use bait.
- 2) Other hunters in Genesis:
  - a) Nimrod became a mighty hunter (Gen. 10:9)
  - b) Ishmael became an archer and both Nimrod and Ishmael were godless men (Gen. 21:20)
  - c) Esau falls into that category – he never once refers to God.

### Jacob

The word "and" is better translated as "But" - "*but Jacob was a mild man, dwelling in tents*" (Gen. 25:27)

- a) So, we've got the wild man and the plain or mild man. Esau was rough and tough – but Jacob was more genteel.
  - i) God describes Job as perfect, the Hebrew word translated "perfect" is "Tam" (Job 1:1)
  - ii) In Psalm 37:37 the word blameless is the word "Tam"
  - iii) In the Song of Solomon, the King calls the Shulamite woman his perfect or undefiled one – that's the word "Tam." (Song of Sol. 5:2; 6:9)
  - iv) Job, the individual of Psalm 37, and the Shulamite woman are all said to be as ideal as could be.
  - v) Untamed Esau was living for the hunt, stalking in the forest, but stately Jacob – despite his name, was living an upright life and dwelling in tents – like his father Isaac and his grandfather Abraham.

### The two boys

- 1) The home
  - a) It was a divided home regarding the parents's affection (Gen. 25:28)
  - b) Isaac loved Jacob because of what he got from him. What a selfish reason to love (Gen. 27:14).
- 2) The boys
  - a) Even if twins were identical in looks, they may not be the same in attitude, likes etc.
  - b) With Jacob and Esau they had different likes.
  - c) The two natures conflicted from the beginning.
  - d) Same parent but different attitudes.
    - i) Just like in every human being, the rough, worldly, lawless nature was born first.

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- ii) At the second birth in Christ, the gentle, spiritual, blameless person is born, and the war begins. The new nature grabs hold of the wild man's heel and tries to restrain it.
- iii) The battle for supremacy and primacy continues throughout their lives.
- iv) Jacob may have lost the battle, but he's not giving up. He's determined to win the war – and in this passage, he does win it. He gains the birthright. The Holy Spirit within us also never gives up, we will win the war as well. Philippians 1:6 says: ***“being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ”***
- v) Sadly Jacob gets it but without waiting on God to fulfil His purposes. God would never use deceitfulness and lies to achieve His purposes.

#### Isaac's Intercessory Prayer

Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife who was barren (Gen. 25:20-21). Praying for a baby and interceding with the Lord, the Source of all life, an exercise both Isaac and Jacob did.

- a) Interestingly, in 1 Samuel 1:1-9, there are no references to Elkanah interceding for His wife Hannah to have a child, but Hannah herself did.
- b) In the case of Zacharias and Elisabeth, they prayed (Lk. 1:13) and when it seemed impossible, God answered their prayer.

There are a number of lessons we can learn:

- a) God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34; Rom. 2:11) when an individual prays to Him.
- b) He heard the prayers of Cornelius even though he was an unsaved man (Acts 10:2). While it does not say that Cornelius was unsaved, yet he had to hear the gospel (Acts 10:43).
- c) God at times waits until we come to a complete end of our endeavours and then works (Lk. 8:43-44).
- d) If we pray according to His will He hears us, and we have the petitions requested (1 Jn. 5:14-15).

#### The Danger of Impatience

There are times in life when we must learn what it is to be persistent in prayer (Lk. 18:3-5).

Sometimes the answer is a test of faith and a fleshly attitude drives us to get moving. God's answer is, “Wait, I'm still orchestrating circumstances”.

- a) Abraham deemed he had waited long enough. They had waited 10 years and then Abraham and Sarah couldn't wait any longer. After 10 years they got impatient and they decided to ‘help God’ answer their prayers. The consequences of their impatience. . . they had to wait another 14 years for God to fulfil His promise and bring about Isaac's birth. Had they only waited patiently, they might have received the promise much much sooner.
- b) Joseph, what a life of sorrow and grief:
  - i) Joseph was in an Egyptian prison (Gen. 39:20)
    - 1. Rejected by his brothers, and sold into slavery (Gen. 37:28)
    - 2. Wrongly accused by Potiphar's wife and imprisoned (Gen. 39:14-19)
    - 3. What was God doing and the dreams, was it all just imagination? No. God was using that time of testing to strengthen his character and to make him into a strong leader – to paint a picture of Christ.
    - 4. God was transforming him from a shepherd into the prince of Egypt. Sometimes we may feel like God's forgotten about us too (Gen. 40:12-15).
  - ii) Joseph got impatient, thinking God had forgotten him, that he sought to find the way out of the prison by asking a man to remember him (Gen. 40:14). He was kept in the dungeon for two more years (Gen. 41:1).
    - 1. When he was ready, God had him promoted from a prisoner to a prince. He was given authority over all of Egypt and was able to rescue his family from the famine to come. (Gen. 45:9-11).

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**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.  
John 16:13**

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