

**BY FAITH ISAAC BLESSED JACOB  
AND ESAU  
HEBREWS 11:20**

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<sup>20</sup> By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

Introduction:

As I prepared for this message I must admit as I began I struggled somewhat with this. As you study this family it seems to be a divided, dysfunctional family. As a matter of fact note what is said about the divisions in this family:

**Genesis 25:28**

<sup>28</sup> And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of *his* venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob.

May I remind each parent that is a foolish thing to love your children differently.

No the less as I began to look at this statement I ask the Lord what is the significance of Isaac blessing Jacob and Esau concerning the things to come.

Turn with me to Genesis 27

Read Genesis 27:1-17

Someone has said, “Doing the will of God leaves me with no for disputing about His plans.”

Fighting God’s will is like spitting into the wind; it always leaves you with a mess to clean up.

Yet people fight against God’s will all the time.

We are reminded in Proverbs 14:12:

**Proverbs 14:12**

<sup>12</sup> There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

Why is it that people don’t submit to God’s Will?

Notice

## **1. SOMETIMES PEOPLE PUT THEIR WILL BEFORE GOD’S WILL (GEN 27:1-5)**

**Genesis 27:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his eldest son, and said unto him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, *here am I*. <sup>2</sup> And he said, Behold now, I am old, I know not the day of my death: <sup>3</sup> Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me *some* venison; <sup>4</sup> And make me savoury meat, such as I love, and bring *it* to me,

that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee before I die. <sup>5</sup> And Rebekah heard when Isaac spake to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt *for* venison, *and* to bring *it*.

As our story begins, Isaac is very old and has gone blind. He feels that he doesn't have much longer to live and wishes to bless Esau, his oldest son, before he dies.

A. What's wrong with this picture? What's wrong is that Isaac was trying to give the blessing to the wrong son.

Isaac knew about the vision that his wife Rebekah had been given from God, that the older son would serve the younger.

**Genesis 25:23**

<sup>23</sup> And the LORD said unto her, Two nations *are* in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and *the one* people shall be stronger than *the other* people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

However, Isaac liked Esau better than his brother Jacob, because he had a weakness for venison and Esau was a hunter.

B. Another thing that is wrong with this picture is that Isaac didn't even enquire of God about this matter. In fact, he was putting himself in the place of God

He was putting his own will in the place of God's will.

He thought himself so important that he could overrule God.

So he tells Esau to take his weapons and go out to the field take some venison, dress it and make the meat that he so loved, so that he might eat and that he might bless him before he died.

Isaac tried to leave God out of the picture altogether.

Isaac tried to do what so many of us do: he tried to do his will in God's name.

Too often we try to make things spiritual that are in reality are carnal.

So often we try to put our will ahead of God's, and when things don't work out we wonder what God is doing wrong.

Then God has to bring us to a point of desperation, where we have no choice but to fall to our knees and submit to His will.

Another Reason People Don't submit to God's Will is:

## 2. SOMETIMES PEOPLE GET IN THE WAY OF GOD'S WILL (VS. 6-17)

### Genesis 27:6-17

<sup>6</sup> And Rebekah spake unto Jacob her son, saying, Behold, I heard thy father speak unto Esau thy brother, saying, <sup>7</sup> Bring me venison, and make me savoury meat, that I may eat, and bless thee before the LORD before my death. <sup>8</sup> Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command thee. <sup>9</sup> Go now to the flock, and fetch me from thence two good kids of the goats; and I will make them savoury meat for thy father, such as he loveth: <sup>10</sup> And thou shalt bring *it* to thy father, that he may eat, and that he may bless thee before his death. <sup>11</sup> And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, Behold, Esau my brother *is* a hairy man, and *I am* a smooth man: <sup>12</sup> My father peradventure will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a deceiver; and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing. <sup>13</sup> And his mother said unto him, Upon me *be* thy curse, my son: only obey my voice, and go fetch me *them*. <sup>14</sup> And he went, and fetched, and brought *them* to his mother: and his mother made savoury meat, such as his father loved. <sup>15</sup> And Rebekah took goodly raiment of her eldest son Esau, which *were* with her in the house, and put them upon Jacob her younger son: <sup>16</sup> And she put the skins of the kids of the goats upon his hands, and upon the smooth of his neck: <sup>17</sup> And she gave the savoury meat and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.

### A. Rebekah Was Listening

As Isaac's little scheme was unfolding, Rebekah was listening outside the tent, and unlike her husband, she loved Jacob more than Esau.

She knew what God had promised her that the older son would serve the younger son.

So she loved Jacob more, and felt as though she had to do something about it.

So she tells Jacob to go fetch out two good goats so that she could make savory meat for Isaac.

Jacob however had some reservations. Esau was a hairy man and perhaps he'll discover he's being deceived and curse him instead of blessing him.

What's wrong with this picture?

The problem was this was not necessary.

God had already promised Rebekah that Jacob would get the blessing.

Esau had already given away his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of potage or stew.

The blessing was already his; neither he nor his mother needed this scheme to get it.

Too often we allow our desires to get into God's way.

We get in the way of God's will because we try to make things happen by our own effort, and not depending on him.

May I remind us that God doesn't need our help to accomplish His will. He is completely capable of bringing it to pass on His own.

Jacob goes along with his mother's scheme and takes the food to his father notice the lies and deception the Jacob resorts to.

### **Genesis 27:18-40**

<sup>18</sup> And he came unto his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here *am* I; who *art* thou, my son? <sup>19</sup> And Jacob said unto his father, I *am* Esau thy firstborn; I have done according as thou badest me: arise, I pray thee, sit and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me. <sup>20</sup> And Isaac said unto his son, How *is it* that thou hast found *it* so quickly, my son? And he said, Because the LORD thy God brought *it* to me. <sup>21</sup> And Isaac said unto Jacob, Come near, I pray thee, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou *be* my very son Esau or not. <sup>22</sup> And Jacob went near unto Isaac his father; and he felt him, and said, The voice *is* Jacob's voice, but the hands *are* the hands of Esau. <sup>23</sup> And he discerned him not, because his hands were hairy, as his brother Esau's hands: so he blessed him. <sup>24</sup> And he said, *Art* thou my very son Esau? And he said, I *am*. <sup>25</sup> And he said, Bring *it* near to me, and I will eat of my son's venison, that my soul may bless thee. And he brought *it* near to him, and he did eat: and he brought him wine, and he drank. <sup>26</sup> And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near now, and kiss me, my son. <sup>27</sup> And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son *is* as the smell of a field which the LORD hath blessed: <sup>28</sup> Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine:

<sup>29</sup> Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed *be* every one that curseth thee, and blessed *be* he that blesseth thee. <sup>30</sup> And it came to pass, as soon as Isaac had made an end of blessing Jacob, and Jacob was yet scarce gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting. <sup>31</sup> And he also had made savoury meat, and brought it unto his father, and said unto his father, Let my father arise, and eat of his son's venison, that thy soul may bless me. <sup>32</sup> And Isaac his father said unto him, Who *art* thou? And he said, I *am* thy son, thy firstborn Esau. <sup>33</sup> And Isaac trembled very exceedingly, and said, Who? where *is* he that hath taken venison, and brought *it* me, and I have eaten of all before thou camest, and have blessed him? yea, *and* he shall be blessed. <sup>34</sup> And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said unto his father, Bless me, *even* me also, O my father. <sup>35</sup> And he said, Thy brother came with subtilty, and hath taken away thy blessing. <sup>36</sup> And he said, Is not he rightly named Jacob? for he hath supplanted me these two times: he took away my birthright; and, behold, now he hath taken away my blessing. And he said, Hast thou not reserved a blessing for me? <sup>37</sup> And Isaac answered and said unto Esau, Behold, I have made him thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and with corn and wine have I sustained him: and what shall I do now unto thee, my son? <sup>38</sup> And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? bless me, *even* me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept. <sup>39</sup> And Isaac his father answered and said unto him, Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above; <sup>40</sup> And by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck.

First, he lied about his identity. "I am Esau your firstborn; I have done just as you told me; please arise, sit and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me."



Second, he lied about the food and God's provision. But Isaac said to his son, "How is it that thou hast found it so quickly, my son? And he said, Because the LORD thy God brought it to me." "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?"

By the way note the words "thy God" not "my God."

Everything seemed to be working out; Jacob received the blessing for his father.

Sadly though, He really gained nothing, and lost plenty.

He lost his mother because he had to flee for his life and Rebekah never saw him again.

He lost all the comforts of home and blessing of his family's fellowship.

Every time we take God's place and the Devil's advice instead trusting God, we set ourselves up for heartbreak.

Every time we try to accomplish a spiritual end by fleshly means we are asking for failure.

**Proverbs 14:12**

<sup>12</sup>There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

We read that Isaac trembled very exceedingly.

Why?

Maybe because he was mad about being deceived.

Maybe because Esau didn't get the blessing that he had intended.

However I believe he trembled because he finally realized that he had been fighting against God's will and God had overruled him.

Close:

You may be asking what does this have to do with our text.

Isaac's faith recovered itself, and he ratified the blessing: I have blessed him yea, and he shall be blessed. Rebecca and Jacob are not to be justified in the indirect means they used to obtain this blessing, but God will be justified in overruling even the sins of men to serve the purposes of his glory.

Now, the faith of Isaac thus prevailing over his unbelief, it has pleased the God of Isaac to pass by the weakness of his faith, to commend the sincerity of it, and record him among the elders, who through faith have obtained a good report.