

# Jacob Deceives Esau

(Genesis 25:19-34)

Yearly Theme: “Love Is...”

Series Title: *Don't Go Your Own Way*

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

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## Something to think about:

We start a new series today that focuses on the definition of Love that *doesn't demand its own way*. In order to focus on this aspect of love, the Old Testament story of a man named Jacob is fitting.

Jacob is considered one of the “patriarchs” (or fathers of the Jewish faith). You oftentimes hear his name spoken along with his grandfather and father with regards to the God of Heaven and Earth: “*The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.*” And like his grandfather and father, Jacob was a *deceiver*. From his birth, throughout most of his life, Jacob was a trickster, a scammer, and a bit of a scoundrel. He deceived his brother out of his birthright as firstborn son, Jacob deceived his father (Isaac) out of blessing Esau as the carrier of the covenant of God as the firstborn son, and he deceived his uncle Laban out of livestock and wealth.

Living most of his life on the run, Jacob's life was a successful mess. Sure, he gained status and wealth and wives and many children, but he achieved all of this by demanding his own way and doing whatever he needed to in order to get what he wanted. Eventually, however, this would catch up with him. Carrying the weight of the burden of deceit throughout his life would ultimately take its toll. Jacob would ultimately come to the place where he would have his toughest battle of all; he would have to wrestle with God to set everything right in order to live life out of the shadows. Jacob would have to seek his own blessing from God in order to have his named changed from “Jacob” (which means “heal grabber, or deceiver”) to “Israel” (which means “God fights”).

Today we come to the start of Jacob's story. Today we witness the Jacob's first act of deceit.

Turn in your Bibles to: **Genesis 25:19-34**

**Key Point:** “*Demanding our own way oftentimes leads to deceptive actions to get what we want.*”

How does this play out in today's Scripture reading? Let's take a look...

### 1. Jacob wrestles with Esau in the womb.

*Genesis 25:21-22 (NLT),* <sup>21</sup> *Isaac pleaded with the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was unable to have children. The LORD answered Isaac's prayer, and Rebekah became pregnant with twins.* <sup>22</sup> *But the two children struggled with each other in her womb. So she went to ask the LORD about it. “Why is this happening to me?” she asked.*

### 2. Jacob wrestles with Esau at birth.

*Genesis 25:24-26 (NLT),* <sup>24</sup> *And when the time came to give birth, Rebekah discovered that she did indeed have twins!* <sup>25</sup> *The first one was very red at birth and covered with thick hair*

*like a fur coat. So they named him Esau.* <sup>26</sup> *Then the other twin was born with his hand grasping Esau's heel. So they named him Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when the twins were born.*

### 3. Jacob wrestles with Esau over Esau's birthright.

*Genesis 25:31-34 (NLT),* <sup>31</sup> *“All right,” Jacob replied, “but trade me your rights as the firstborn son.”* <sup>32</sup> *“Look, I'm dying of starvation!” said Esau. “What good is my birthright to me now?”* <sup>33</sup> *But Jacob said, “First you must swear that your birthright is mine.” So Esau swore an oath, thereby selling all his rights as the firstborn to his brother, Jacob.* <sup>34</sup> *Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and lentil stew. Esau ate the meal, then got up and left. He showed contempt for his rights as the firstborn.*

## Something to take home:

So, where does deceit come from? Where did it originate? In the Gospel of John in the New Testament, Jesus points this out, and gives us the answer. Listen to what He says...

**John 8:44 (NLT),** “... [Satan] was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

Ever since the *first* deception in the Garden of Eden in Genesis 3 till now, Satan has held sway over the fallen world through deceit and deception. The problem with deception is that it hides the truth; and, when the truth is hidden there is no reality. Where there is no reality, there is no real sense of right and wrong, and this is a terribly bad place to be. This is where death lives; and, where death is allowed to reign is Hell.

As we'll see in a few weeks, Jacob had to quit running from the truth; he had to quit living a life of deceit in order to truly find himself. Jacob, we'll see, had to learn the hard way how living a lie not only distorted his character, but kept him running from place to place in search of the next best thing only to find the mirage of hope instead of the real thing.

Have you ever deceived anyone? Have you ever lied about anything to anyone? Have you ever embellished the truth of your accomplishments or abilities in order to get ahead? Have you ever lied to cover-up your short-comings? Have you ever lied to cover up your sins? Has your deceit ever hurt you? Has your deceit ever hurt anyone?

**Key Point:** “*Demanding our own way oftentimes leads to deceptive actions to get what we want.*”

However, there is hope! There is hope as we confess our sins, our deceit, and our short-comings to each other and God! This breaks the control that Satan has on our lives and truly does set us free!

**James 5:16 (NLT),** *Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.*

**John 8:31-32 (NLT),** <sup>31</sup> *Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings.* <sup>32</sup> *And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

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*“Develop completely committed followers of Christ who:*

***Know** Christ intimately,  
**Grow** in Christ continually, and,  
**Go** for Christ daily;*

*Through:  
 Core Families,  
 Community Partnerships, and  
 Global Connections.*

Don't go  
 your  
 own  
 way

JACOB'S STORY

**LESSON 1:**  
 “JACOB DECEIVES ESAU”  
 (GENESIS 25:19-34)

# Jacob Deceives Esau

(Genesis 25:19-34)

Series Title: *Don't Go Your Own Way*

## KICK STARTERS:

- ⇒ How do you define “deceit”?
- ⇒ Has there ever been a time when you were deceived into believing or doing something? Explain...

**SCRIPTURE:** (Before studying this material, consider listening to the corresponding message online at: <http://www.northmaincog.org/media/sermon-media>)

**Genesis 25:19-34 (NLT)**

<sup>19</sup> *This is the account of the family of Isaac, the son of Abraham.* <sup>20</sup> *When Isaac was forty years old, he married Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan-aram and the sister of Laban the Aramean.*

<sup>21</sup> *Isaac pleaded with the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was unable to have children. The LORD answered Isaac’s prayer, and Rebekah became pregnant with twins.*

<sup>22</sup> *But the two children struggled with each other in her womb. So she went to ask the LORD about it. “Why is this happening to me?” she asked.*

<sup>23</sup> *And the LORD told her, “The sons in your womb will become two nations. From the very beginning, the two nations will be rivals. One nation will be stronger than the other; and your older son will serve your younger son.”*

<sup>24</sup> *And when the time came to give birth, Rebekah discovered that she did indeed have twins!* <sup>25</sup> *The first one was very red at birth and covered with thick hair like a fur coat. So they named him Esau.* <sup>26</sup> *Then the other twin was born with his hand grasping Esau’s heel. So they named him Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when the twins were born.*

<sup>27</sup> *As the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter. He was an outdoorsman, but Jacob had a quiet temperament, preferring to stay at home.* <sup>28</sup> *Isaac loved Esau because he enjoyed eating the wild game Esau brought home, but Rebekah loved Jacob.*

<sup>29</sup> *One day when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau arrived home from the wilderness exhausted and hungry.* <sup>30</sup> *Esau said to Jacob, “I’m starved! Give me some of that red stew!” (This is how Esau got his other name, Edom, which means “red.”)*

<sup>31</sup> *“All right,” Jacob replied, “but trade me your rights as the firstborn son.”*

<sup>32</sup> *“Look, I’m dying of starvation!” said Esau. “What good is my birthright to me now?”*

<sup>33</sup> *But Jacob said, “First you must swear that your birthright is mine.” So Esau swore an oath, thereby selling all his rights as the firstborn to his brother, Jacob.*

<sup>34</sup> *Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and lentil stew. Esau ate the meal, then got up and left. He showed contempt for his rights as the firstborn.*

## GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Explain (or talk about) what’s going on in this passage of scripture...  
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2. Isaac and Rebekah were having trouble getting pregnant, but through an answer to prayer the Lord caused Rebekah to get pregnant with twins. However, as they grew in her womb something abnormal happened that caused her to seek the Lord. What was going on, and what was God’s response to her (vv. 22-23)?  
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3. When Rebekah gave birth, she indeed gave birth to twins. Describe the boys and what happened at birth (vv. 24-26)?  
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4. As Jacob and Esau grew, there differences continued to stand out. Describe their differences, and their relationship with their parents, Isaac and Rebekah (vv. 27-28)?  
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5. One day Jacob was cooking at home and Esau had just come home from the wilderness. Describe what happens between the two boys (vv. 29-34)?  
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6. Now, there’s a lot happening in this passage of scripture, but there seems to be a running theme of disfunction. What do you believe the main issue is in this passage?  
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7. How do differences between people drive them apart rather than draw them together? Is competition wrong? Why, or why not?  
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8. How does Jacob take advantage of Esau’s situation? What Jacob right or wrong for doing this? Explain...  
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9. What can we take away from this passage of scripture today that could help us from repeating the same behaviors?  
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## SELF-EVALUATION/APPLICATION:

- ⇒ **THE PROBLEM WITH DECEPTION IS** that it hides the truth; and, when the truth is hidden there is no perceived reality, and this is a dangerous place to be.
- ⇒ **HAVE YOU EVER DECEIVED ANYONE?** Have you ever lied about anything to anyone? Have you ever embellished the truth of your accomplishments or abilities in order to get ahead? Have you ever lied to cover-up your shortcomings? Have you ever lied to cover up your sins? Has your deceit ever hurt you? Has your deceit ever hurt anyone?
- ⇒ **MEMORY VERSE:** *Genesis 25:23 and John 8:34-36.*