

Jacob Deceives Isaac

(Genesis 27:1-21)

Yearly Theme: “Love Is...”

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

March 10th, 2019

Something to think about:

Angelo and John Turri, in an article about lying begin by asking the question,

What is it to lie? The standard view in social science and philosophy is that a lie is a dishonest assertion. You lie if you say something which you think is false in order to deceive your audience into believing it. Lying does not require your assertion to be objectively false, only that you believe it is false. This has long been the standard view in philosophy (e.g. Augustine 395; Aquinas, 1273, II.II, Question 110, Article 1; Bok, 1978; Chisholm & Feehan, 1977; Fallis, 2009; Frege, 1948, p. 219; Grotius, 1625: p. 258, n. 8; Williams, 2002).¹

As we continue to look at the life of Jacob in the Old Testament, we can see the painful results of ongoing deception and lying. Continuing the ongoing saga from last week, where we looked at Jacob's manipulating his brother Esau out of his rights as firstborn son, today we see Jacob's next deception with his father Isaac. Follow along...

Open your Bibles to: *Genesis 27:1-41*

The one phrase that sums this passage up is...

Key Point: “*Demanding our own way ultimately hurts the ones we love the most.*”

How does deception, and demanding our own way, hurt the ones we love? Well, through Jacob's story we see that...

1. Jacob lied to his father.

Genesis 27:18-19 (NLT),¹⁸ So Jacob took the food to his father. “My father?” he said. “Yes, my son,” Isaac answered. “Who are you—Esau or Jacob?”¹⁹ Jacob replied, “It’s Esau, your firstborn son. I’ve done as you told me. Here is the wild game. Now sit up and eat it so you can give me your blessing.”

2. Jacob became estranged from his brother.

Genesis 27:41 (NLT),⁴¹ From that time on, Esau hated Jacob because their father had given Jacob the blessing. And Esau began to scheme: “I will soon be mourning my father’s death. Then I will kill my brother, Jacob.”

3. Jacob never saw his mother again.²

Genesis 27:42-45 (NLT),⁴² But Rebekah heard about Esau’s plans. So she sent for Jacob and told him, “Listen, Esau is consoling himself by plotting to kill you.⁴³ So listen carefully, my son. Get ready and flee to my brother, Laban, in Haran.⁴⁴ Stay there with him until your brother cools off.⁴⁵ When he calms down and forgets what you have done to him, I will send for you to come back. Why should I lose both of you in one day?”

Something to take home:

Austin O'Malley, M.D., ophthalmologist and a professor of English literature at University of Notre Dame, wrote:

“A lie has no legs. It requires other lies to support it. Tell one lie and you are forced to tell others to back it up. Stretching the truth won't make it last any longer. Those that think it permissible to tell white lies soon grow colorblind.”³

Lies and deception don't only hurt us, they hurt those around us. More specifically, lies and deception can hurt those we love the most. It can estrange us from others, damage friendships, and leave us lost and alone.

But, truth... Truth, not lies, sets a person free!...

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

All truth comes from God because God is all truth. There is nothing in him that is false. The Apostle John (one of Jesus' 12 disciples) wrote:

1 John 1:5-10 (NLT),⁵ This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all.⁶ So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth.⁷ But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.⁸ If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth.⁹ But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.

Truth is the only way to live a life in the light of God and out of spiritual darkness.

Key Point: “*Demanding our own way ultimately hurts the ones we love the most.*”

¹ Angelo Turri and John Turri, “The Truth about Lying.” *Cognition* 138 (2015): 161. <https://files.turri.org/research/lying.pdf> (accessed March 5, 2019).

² However, Jacob would see his father, Isaac, again. When Jacob finally returned home, he and his brother Esau would bury their father upon his death (Genesis 35:27-29).

³ Austin O'Malley.

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KICK STARTERS:

- ⇒ How does lying hurt the ones we love the most?
- ⇒ Have you ever lied to someone you love? Did it hurt the relationship? Explain...

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

Genesis 27:1-41 (NLT)

¹ One day when Isaac was old and turning blind, he called for Esau, his older son, and said, "My son." "Yes, Father?" Esau replied.

² "I am an old man now," Isaac said, "and I don't know when I may die. ³ Take your bow and a quiver full of arrows, and go out into the open country to hunt some wild game for me. ⁴ Prepare my favorite dish, and bring it here for me to eat. Then I will pronounce the blessing that belongs to you, my firstborn son, before I die."

⁵ But Rebekah overheard what Isaac had said to his son Esau. So when Esau left to hunt for the wild game, ⁶ she said to her son Jacob, "Listen. I overheard your father say to Esau, ⁷ 'Bring me some wild game and prepare me a delicious meal. Then I will bless you in the LORD's presence before I die.' ⁸ Now, my son, listen to me. Do exactly as I tell you. ⁹ Go out to the flocks, and bring me two fine young goats. I'll use them to prepare your father's favorite dish. ¹⁰ Then take the food to your father so he can eat it and bless you before he dies."

¹¹ "But look," Jacob replied to Rebekah, "my brother, Esau, is a hairy man, and my skin is smooth. ¹² What if my father touches me? He'll see that I'm trying to trick him, and then he'll curse me instead of blessing me."

¹³ But his mother replied, "Then let the curse fall on me, my son! Just do what I tell you. Go out and get the goats for me!"

¹⁴ So Jacob went out and got the young goats for his mother. Rebekah took them and prepared a delicious meal, just the way Isaac liked it. ¹⁵ Then she took Esau's favorite clothes, which were there in the house, and gave them to her younger son, Jacob. ¹⁶ She covered his arms and the smooth part of his neck with the skin of the young goats. ¹⁷ Then she gave Jacob the delicious meal, including freshly baked bread.

¹⁸ So Jacob took the food to his father. "My father?" he said. "Yes, my son," Isaac answered. "Who are you—Esau or Jacob?"

¹⁹ Jacob replied, "It's Esau, your firstborn son. I've done as you told me. Here is the wild game. Now sit up and eat it so you can give me your blessing."

²⁰ Isaac asked, "How did you find it so quickly, my son?"

"The LORD your God put it in my path!" Jacob replied.

²¹ Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come closer so I can touch you and make sure that you really are Esau." ²² So Jacob went closer to his father, and Isaac touched him. "The voice is Jacob's, but the hands are Esau's," Isaac said. ²³ But he did not recognize Jacob, because Jacob's hands felt hairy just like Esau's. So Isaac prepared to bless Jacob. ²⁴ "But are you really my son Esau?" he asked.

"Yes, I am," Jacob replied.

²⁵ Then Isaac said, "Now, my son, bring me the wild game. Let me eat it, and then I will give you my blessing." So Jacob took the food to his father, and Isaac ate it. He also drank the wine that Jacob served him. Then Isaac said to Jacob, ²⁶ "Please come a little closer and kiss me, my son."

²⁷ So Jacob went over and kissed him. And when Isaac caught the smell of his clothes, he was finally convinced, and he blessed his son. He said, "Ah! The smell of my son is like the smell of the outdoors, which the LORD has blessed!"

²⁸ "From the dew of heaven and the richness of the earth, may God always give you abundant harvests of grain and bountiful new wine.

²⁹ May many nations become your servants, and may they bow down to you. May you be the master over your brothers, and may your mother's sons bow down to you. All who curse you will be cursed, and all who bless you will be blessed."

³⁰ As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and almost before Jacob had left his father, Esau returned from his hunt. ³¹ Esau prepared a delicious meal and brought it to his father. Then he said, "Sit up, my father, and eat my wild game so you can give me your blessing."

³² But Isaac asked him, "Who are you?"

Esau replied, "It's your son, your firstborn son, Esau."

³³ Isaac began to tremble uncontrollably and said, "Then who just served me wild game? I have already eaten it, and I blessed him just before you came. And yes, that blessing must stand!"

³⁴ When Esau heard his father's words, he let out a loud and bitter cry. "Oh my father, what about me? Bless me, too!" he begged.

³⁵ But Isaac said, "Your brother was here, and he tricked me. He has taken away your blessing."

³⁶ Esau exclaimed, "No wonder his name is Jacob, for now he has cheated me twice. First he took my rights as the firstborn, and now he has stolen my blessing. Oh, haven't you saved even one blessing for me?"

³⁷ Isaac said to Esau, "I have made Jacob your master and have declared that all his brothers will be his servants. I have guaranteed him an

abundance of grain and wine—what is left for me to give you, my son?"

³⁸ Esau pleaded, "But do you have only one blessing? Oh my father, bless me, too!" Then Esau broke down and wept.

³⁹ Finally, his father, Isaac, said to him, "You will live away from the richness of the earth, and away from the dew of the heaven above.

⁴⁰ You will live by your sword, and you will serve your brother. But when you decide to break free, you will shake his yoke from your neck."

⁴¹ From that time on, Esau hated Jacob because their father had given Jacob the blessing. And Esau began to scheme: "I will soon be mourning my father's death. Then I will kill my brother, Jacob."

GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Describe what's going on in this text of scripture...

2. What did Jacob have to do in order to get the blessing his father had reserved for Esau (vv. 14-29)? Why did Jacob (prompted by his mother) resort to lying in order to get the blessing from Isaac? Do you think this put a strain on Jacob and Isaac's relationship? Why, or why not?

3. After Jacob tricked Isaac into giving him Esau's blessing, what happens when Esau returns (vv. 30-40)? How did Jacob's deceit affect his relationship with his brother Esau (v. 41)? What would you do if your brother did this to you?

4. How did this whole situation affect Jacob and Rebekah's relationship (read Genesis 27:42-45)?

5. How does lying/deception hurt the ones we love the most?

6. Why do people take matters into their own hands when God hasn't given them the go ahead to act? How does taking matters into our own hands when God hasn't said to act usually affect the outcome of situations (Consider Genesis 16:1-6; Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar)?

7. The opposite of lying and deceitfulness is "truth." How can the truth set people free (John 8:31-32)? Is honesty really the best policy? Why, or why not?

SELF-EVALUATION/APPLICATION:

- ⇒ **LIES AND DECEPTION** don't only hurt us, they hurt those around us. More specifically, lies and deception can hurt those we love the most. It can estrange us from others, damage friendships, and leave us lost and alone.
- ⇒ **HOW DOES DECEPTION**, and demanding our own way, hurt those we love the most? The consequences of lying and deceit is not only loss of trust, but also alienation and isolation. Has this proved to be true in your life, or someone you know? Have you experienced how lying and deceit can not only damage friendships and family relationships, but also damage you in the long run?
- ⇒ **MEMORY VERSE:** *Genesis 27:24* and *John 8:31-32*.