

Jacob & the Gospel # 4

# Genesis 27<sup>1-40</sup>

## God's grace in a dysfunctional family

Lord's day morning: 8 July 2007

Preacher: Geoff Findlay

Children's talk: Our 5 senses

### Introduction

Overwhelming encouragement

### 1. Rebekah's part

Her sin – Refusing to accept her husband's headship

Her rationale – My husband is sinning against God

### 2. Jacob's part

His sin – Deceit, lies & blasphemy

His rationale – My mother told me to

### 3. Isaac's part

His sin – Putting personal preferences before the will of God

His repentance – He affirms God's will

### 4. Esau's part

His sin – Desiring physical blessings not spiritual ones

His response – Tears & revenge

### 5. God's grace

His promise stands

His commendation of Isaac's faith (Heb 11<sup>20</sup>)

### Conclusion - Christ is coming

Wearing our garments of sin

Exchanging places with us

Taking our curse



### Questions answered

- Are God's purposes derailed in a dysfunctional family?
- In what ways did Rebekah sin against God?  
Why did she do it?  
What should she have done?
- Does God ever need our sin to help Him accomplish His purposes?
- Why was Jacob reluctant at first concerning the scheme of deception?  
What basic character flaw does this reveal in fallen human nature?
- As soon as we think about getting caught, what have we already done?
- Why was Isaac doing this deal with Esau in private?  
Did Isaac know the will of God in this matter?  
What does this teach us about the power of personal preferences?
- What indication is there that Isaac repented of his unbelieving intentions?
- Should we feel sorry for Esau?  
Why do we, perhaps?
- What indications do we have of the state of Esau's heart?  
What do his responses reveal about his heart?
- Who is the only one who emerges from all this with any credit to his name?  
Upon what principle does He act?
- How is it that God can commend Isaac for his faith (Heb 11<sup>20</sup>)?
- If the fear of getting found out is powerless to keep us safe from sinning,  
and knowing the revelation of God is no guarantee that we will follow it,  
what is the real motivation for living out the Christian life?
- How is Jesus Christ prefigured by example and counter-example in all this?



### Things to pray about

- Appreciating more and more what Jesus Christ has done for me in being my sin-bearing substitute.
- Wondering at the grace of God triumphing in the midst of dysfunctionality.