

# A Study in Genesis: The Deceivers, The Deceived and God's Grace

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**Scripture Focus:** Genesis 25:29-34; 27:1-40

Given our lesson last week, we see that Isaac and Rebekah practiced a love that seemed to stamp the imprint of estrangement upon their children. Genesis never records a single conversation or encounter between Esau and Rebekah, his mother. Not one. As for Jacob and Esau, their relationship will be marked by wrongful dealmaking involving Esau's birthright and blatant deception for Isaac's blessing, plotted by Rebekah and enacted by her favored one.

## A Birthright in Exchange for Food (Genesis 25:29-34)

- Who is at fault in this bargaining process, Jacob, Esau, or both?
- Was it a foregone conclusion that this would happen (Esau selling his birthright) given what had been told to Rebekah before her sons were born? Might the foretelling lessen any responsibility Jacob might bear?
- To what extent is tempting an individual to do something wrong, or contributing to another's poor choice, a sin?
- After Esau ate, why do you think "Esau despised his birthright"?

## Mother and Son Deceive the Father (Genesis 27:1-40)

- Who, if anyone, is at fault in this story?
- Again, might we conclude that since God had already announced, "the elder shall serve the younger," (Gen. 25:23c) that this deception was justified?
- Who in this story would we hold up as an example of right behavior before God?
- Where is God's love and grace in these two stories?

There is clearly a lack of peace among the members of Isaac's family.

- What is contributing to this disunity?
- What often contributes to disunity and a lack of peace in our own families, communities, and nation?
- Please read and meditate upon Romans 12:9-21; 14:13-19. May the Lord grant us wisdom and strength to pursue peace and faithfully follow Christ.