

A person with a backpack walking through a forest. The person is seen from behind, wearing a white cap and a dark backpack. They are walking on a dirt path through a dense forest with tall, thin trees. The lighting is soft, suggesting a forest setting.

Origins

Studies In Genesis

Origins: Jacob, Esau and The Blessing

Date: Sunday 17th February 2019

Speakers: Rosie & Andrew McNeil

Key Verses: Genesis Chapter 25-27

Talk Summary:

Jacob and Esau's story is one of the most emotionally charged in the Bible. It's a story of favouritism, jealousy and deception. We see patterns handed down from generation to generation. Abraham and Sarah had their favourite son, Isaac. Now Isaac and Rebekah have their own favourites. Later on again history repeats as Jacob has his own favourite son, Joseph.

Favouritism is really common in families. Often parents can bond to a child because of common interests. In this story, natural connection turned into unequal love.

We also see Jacob lying to receive his father's blessing. The blessing would be the blessing of God's Abrahamic covenant. The father would be saying to his son, "through your family line salvation is going to come to the world. God is going to work through you and your descendants to bring Messiah."

"What is a blessing?" Simple definition is it's empowering someone to succeed. We see the five elements to a blessing. Chapter 27:27-29

- 1) Meaningful touch. When a blessing is conveyed from one person to another, the one extending blessing touches the one being blessed.
- 2) Spoken words of love and acceptance. Spoken words communicate a blessing.
- 3) Attaching high value to the person. Words that speak of the worth and value of an individual empowers them for their future.

4) Picture of a special future. Everyone longs for a picture of the future from someone who is important to them.

5) An active commitment to fulfil the blessing. It is not enough to speak words to a person in order to bless them.

Now Jacob was afraid to come into Isaac's presence. Even though Isaac was blind, Jacob was afraid of being discovered as a fraud and a fake as he pretended to be someone he wasn't.

The reason you are not an imposter when you come into God's presence, is that if you have trusted in Jesus, He voluntarily clothes you with his clothing of righteousness. You didn't steal his clothes like Jacob did; Jesus gives Himself to clothe you. *Colossians 3:26 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, 27 for all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.*

Jesus willingly clothes us with His righteousness so that we might have access to our Father and receive His blessing. It is God's intention to bless your life. The channel of his blessing is Jesus.

Group Discussion Questions:

1. Family mess. If someone wrote a history of your family over the last several generations, what would it say? What are the things that Jesus has changed, is changing or might want to change?

Favouritism. Did you see this play out in your upbringing? Does that have an ongoing impact on you in any way? Have you ever acknowledged that in the presence of God? Have you considered having a Sozo?

2. The Power of blessing. "A blessing empowers a person to succeed". Can you think of a person who has blessed you? How many of these elements were present in that relationship?

- Meaningful touch
- Spoken message of love and acceptance
- Attaching "high value" to the person being blessed
- Picturing a special future for that person
- Active commitment to fulfil the blessing

What is a next step for you as you think about your invitation to be a blessing?

Do you think that God could give you the creativity to say something that would communicate high value to someone special in your life – a child, a friend, a member of your small group, a parent? Who might that be?

3. The Fathers blessing. Consider the verse below and the 5 points of blessing. How does that fill out your understanding of being blessed by God?

Ephesians Ch 1: 3-5 "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will"

Further Resources

- Consider a Sozo prayer appointment. See <https://www.birminghamvineyard.com/sozo>
- Book recommendation - The Blessing by Gary Smalley and John Trent