

Genesis 27-28:5

God's Grace is Greater

Section 1: 27:1-29: Jesus Prophesized

Ah, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field that the Lord has blessed. ²⁸ May God give to you— from the dew of the sky and from the richness of the land—an abundance of grain and new wine. ²⁹ May peoples serve you and nations bow in worship to you. Be master over your relatives; may your mother's sons bow in worship to you. Those who curse you will be cursed, and those who bless you will be blessed.

Often, we come across passages and we wonder what does this mean and how does it fit? When reading the OT, the question we should always have in the back of our minds is: *how does this point me to Jesus?* Every story, prophecy, promise and revelation were designed to point us to Jesus. Jesus is the focal point of all the Scriptures.

For example: concerning verses 27-29 Hippolytus of Rome (170 AD – 235 AD) states:

In whom then have the words "Ah, the smell of the clothes of my son is like the smell of a fruitful field that the Lord has blessed" been accomplished? In nobody else but Christ, Son of God. In fact the field is the world, and the smell of his clothes are all those who believe in him, according to what the apostle says: "we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of life leading to life" (2 Corinthians 2:15-16). The words "May God give you of the dew of heaven, of the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain and wine" signify clearly the Word, who came down from heaven like dew. The earth is the flesh that he has assumed from the Virgin. Through the words "plenty of grain and wine," the prophet signifies the saints, who are gathered together like the grain in a barn and are justified by the Spirit as by wine.

John had passed on to Polycarp...who passed onto Irenaeus...who passed on to Hippolytus what Jesus taught about Himself. As it says in Luke 24:27 (CSB) - *Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted for them the things concerning himself (Jesus) in all the Scriptures.*

Moses is a reference to the first five books of the Bible and the Prophets is a reference to the rest. Jesus explained to the disciples that ALL the Scriptures were pointing us to Him. We often forget that all of Scripture is pointing us to Jesus. The Bible is a glorious book given to us by God so that we may know Him and glorify Him with our lives.

Adrian Rogers: *"The Bible addresses one problem—sin. The Bible has one villain—Satan. The Bible has one hero—Jesus. The Bible has one purpose—to glorify God."*

So, why are we getting this particular story of Jacob and Esau? So that we can have a greater understanding of Jesus and the story of redemption. Jesus is coming to gather His people and He will seal them with the Holy Spirit. The nations will come and bow down to Jesus. As it is written in Philippians 2:9-11 (CSB): *⁹ For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow— in heaven and on earth and under the earth— ¹¹ and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Why should we read the OT looking for descriptions of Jesus?
- ❖ How does it impact our view of others when we remember that ALL of us equally need God's grace?
- ❖ How does seeing a liar and thief like Jacob receive God's grace encourage you?

Section 2: 27:30-41 – Esau Realizes His Fate

³⁸ Esau said to his father, "Do you have only one blessing, my father? Bless me too, my father!" And Esau wept loudly. ³⁹ His father Isaac answered him, Look, your dwelling place will be away from the richness of the land, away from the dew of the sky above. ⁴⁰ You will live by your sword, and you will serve your brother. But when you rebel, you will break his yoke from your neck. ⁴¹ Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him. And Esau determined in his heart, "The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob."

We've seen Cain and Seth...then Ishmael and Isaac...and now Esau and Jacob. Throughout Scripture we are given the contrast between those of God and those not of God. Cain, Ishmael and now Esau could do nothing to earn a blessing and they often acted out because of that fact.

God's grace and mercy is what separates believers and nonbelievers. It's not our goodness, desires, acts, attitude, family status, etc. Therefore, a believer should be the humblest person in any room.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Why is it important to remember that we don't earn salvation?
- ❖ How does pride relationships, families, people, jobs...?
- ❖ How do we humbly share the gospel with others?

Section 3: 27:41-28:5 – Jacob Sent to Find a Wife

So Isaac summoned Jacob, blessed him, and commanded him, "Do not marry a Canaanite girl. ² Go at once to Paddan-aram, to the house of Bethuel, your mother's father. Marry one of the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother. ³ May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you so that you become an assembly of peoples. ⁴ May God give you and your offspring the blessing of Abraham so that you may possess the land where you live as a foreigner, the land God gave to Abraham." ⁵ So Isaac sent Jacob to Paddan-aram, to Laban son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau.

Once again, we are seeing that who we marry matters. All throughout Scriptures we are reminded that faith matters. Why is faith so important? Because faith is an eternal reality. We are not to be living for temporary earthly kingdoms/nations. We are commanded to live for the kingdom to come. Our citizenship is in heaven. Followers of God versus pagans was at the heart of Isaac's request for Jacob to marry someone from the tribe that feared and worshipped the true God. The importance of faith in relationships, especially marriage, has always been a reality for God's people.

We also see the continued faithfulness of God to establish the nation of Israel. God promised to make Abraham a mighty nation (which will be Israel) and that his seed (Jesus) would bless all nations. Through Jacob we are seeing the continued establishment of Israel and the continued line that leads to Jesus.

Throughout the Scriptures God reveals His faithfulness. Not matter how people act or don't act God's plan cannot be delayed, destroyed or stopped. Esau will not be able to stop Jacob from becoming Israel. What God sets to accomplish man cannot stop and the enemy cannot defeat. For Jacob in this moment, it meant the nation of Israel and the birth of the Messiah was sure...set in stone...no doubt it would come to pass.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ God's Word is certain. How should that truth impact our daily lives?
- ❖ Why is God's grace greater than our efforts?