# “Jacob’s Deception”

**(He tricked his father so that his father would bless him)**
**Genesis 26:34-28:9**
1/10/99

Introduction:
An overview of the saga of deception:

**** We must never seek to gain God’s blessing in the wrong way!***

***Observe some lessons from the sad account of a son who lied to his dad so as to acquire his dad’s blessing:***

**I. Honesty is the believer’s only policy**

**II. The end (of blessing) never justifies the means (of lying)**

**III. We must respect our highest authority (and be truthful like Him)**

**IV. Concern over doing wrong should matter more than concern over “getting caught”**

**V. One lie will lead to more lies**

**VI. The end result of deception is fear, bitterness, and woe.**

**VII. God will bless the believer in His way and in His time, if we trust Him and wait on Him!**

# “Jacob’s Deception”

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Lack of truthfulness is a chief characteristic of these evil days in which we live.
In the business world, the phrase, "You have my word on it" is meaningless.
In the social world, fidelity between friends is hard to find.
In the domestic world, faithfulness to marriage vows is a rarity.
In the ecclesiastical world, "thousands who have solemnly covenanted to preach the truth make no scruple to attack and deny it" (Pink, p. 52)
It seems that just when you thought someone told you the truth, you realize it was a lie. When you thought they were sincere, you find out it was just a cover-up. Where is truth to be found? The answer is in God!

Introduction:
An overview of the saga of deception:

**26:35**
**“A grief of mind” –** Isaac and Rebekah were deeply upset by their eldest son’s decision to marry heathen wives.

Young people: Never displease your God-honoring parents by marrying someone who wasn’t their choice!

These Canaanite wives of Esau would not be suitable to carry on the Abrahamic covenant and be the progenitors of the Jewish race because they evidently did not know Jehovah and would not follow His ways.

They were totally out of step with the life Isaac and Rebekah wanted for their son.

The Bible says: 2 Cor. 6:14-15
Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? [15] And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

Esau in effect has dug his own grave. Not only had he cheaply bartered away his valuable birthright for a cheap bowl of soup, but now he yokes up with pagan women to further negatively affect his future.

**27:1**
**“Isaac was old” –** He was at least 100 years old.

**“His eldest son” –** Although Esau and Jacob were twins, Esau was born first and normally it would be the firstborn who would receive the patriarchal blessing.

God, however, had said: “the elder shall serve the younger” (25:23).

God decreed that Jacob would hold an exalted position above Esau.

It's hard to imagine how Isaac would still favor Esau after:

1) God's prediction of the "elder serving the younger" (25:23)

2) Esau selling his birthright to Jacob

Maybe Isaac forgot God's oracle or just allowed his favoritism to overrule God's Word.

**v. 4**
Beware of parental preference, of favoring one child above another (25:28).

Isaac's "palate had long since governed his heart" (Genesis 25:28
And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob.)
(Kidner, p. 156).

Isaac favored Esau because Esau fed his stomach.

**v. 17**
The clothing would give the <u>scent</u> of Esau, and the animal skins would provide the <u>texture</u> of Esau.

The savory meat would tantalize the <u>tastebuds</u> of Isaac. All together, the appeal to three of the senses (smell, touch, taste) would deceive a man who could not see.

**v. 21**
Don't ever make important decisions based on "feeling."

Isaac would discredit what he heard (v. 22) and give priority to what he felt.

Isaac pronounces a blessing on Jacob involving:

1) Provision 9 (v. 28)

2) Pre-eminence (v. 29a)

3) Protection (v. 29b)
"Cursed be everyone that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee" – identical to Abraham's blessing by God (12:3)

Although Jacob had the right to the blessing, since he possessed the birthright, the birthright meant nothing unless the father would bestow the blessing.

The pronouncement of the blessing made the birthright effective and binding.

"In ancient times, a person's word was binding (much like a written contract today), especially when it was a formal oath. This is why Isaac's blessing was irrevocable" (Life Appl. Bible note)

**v. 33**
**"He shall be blessed" –** Isaac's pronouncement was irreversible; his words could not be retracted. It was a binding promise. Even though there was deception, once the promise was made it could not be taken back (cp. The promise of peace that Joshua made to the Gibeonites [Josh. 9:15] and the vow Jepthah made regarding sacrifice.]

Words were binding in ancient times. If you promised it or vowed it, it had to be carried out. How unlike our day, when promises (EX: wedding vows) mean little or nothing to many people.

**v. 34**
Esau, who by selling his birthright had "sacrificed the permanent on the altar of the immediate," could not reverse the consequences of his choice, although he begged and cried (Hebrews 12:16-17 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. [17] For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.)

**v. 36**
**"Jacob" =** trickster, heel catcher, supplanter. He lived up to his name.

**v. 44**
**"A few days" –** would amount to 20 years!

**v. 46**
Rather than being honest with her husband and informing him of Esau's plot to kill Jacob, Rebekah again practices deception to get Isaac to send Jacob away (using marriage as the reason).

**28:1**
Fathers should take interest in who their children marry and do not marry. This is part of our responsibility as parents.

**28:3-4**
These blessings originally given to Abraham (15:18-21) would now be passed on to Jacob.

**28:6-9**
Esau figured that if he did something like Jacob, that his father would bless him as well. Since Isaac told Jacob, "God get a wife of your relatives," Esau perhaps thought, "Maybe I will get a blessing if I too go and get a wife of my relatives. So he goes and marries Ishmael's daughter.

**** We must never seek to gain God's blessing in the wrong way!***

***Observe some lessons from the sad account of a son who lied to his dad so as to acquire his dad's blessing:***

## I. Honesty is the believer's only policy

A better way to deal with the problem would have been to confront Isaac and remind him of god's promise and how Jacob owned the birthright, but the family was not close enough for the honest approach. And besides, favoritism had ruled for quite some time (Ross, p. 477).

## II. The end (of blessing) never justifies the means (of lying)

Rebekah tries to bring about something good by doing something that is ethically and morally wrong. She figured that the end justified the means.

"No matter how good we think our goals are, we should not attempt to achieve them by doing what is wrong. Would God approve of the methods you are using to accomplish your goals?" (Life Appl. Bible note)

"It is never right to do wrong in order to do right."

## III. We must respect our highest authority (and be truthful like Him)

**27:13**
**"Obey my voice" –** The only time a child would be right to disobey his/her parents is when they would ask him to do something immoral or sinful.

## IV. Concern over doing wrong should matter more than concern over "getting caught"

**27:11-12**
Very often we are more concerned about "getting caught" than we are about doing something that is morally wrong.

It is a human tendency to fear the consequences of sinning more than we fear the sin itself. . . to dread what might happen to us rather than dreading how God would be displeased by the shameful act.

## V. One lie will lead to more lies

**v. 20**
When you lie once, you will most often be pressured into lying twice, and one and one, and worse yet, blaspheming God in the process.

One lie leads to telling more lies in order to convince the person you lied to that your first lie was really not a lie.

## VI. The end result of deception is fear, bitterness, and woe.

The consequences of deception:

Although Jacob got the blessing he wanted. . .

1) He would live the rest of his life knowing that he did wrong to his father to get it (the guilt would remain)

2) He would turn his brother against him and fear for his life. Bitter hatred would result from Jacob's deception.

3) He would split a family apart, by having to leave home (flee from Esau). His mother would never see him again

4) He, too, would be deceived by his Uncle Laban (you reap what you sow – Gal. 6:7)

Note: Isaac lied in chapter 26, now he gets lied to in chapter 27; Jacob deceives in chapter 27 and then gets deceived in chapter 29.

## VII. God will bless the believer in His way and in His time, if we trust Him and wait on Him!

"Although God had already told her that Jacob would become the family leader (25:23-26), Rebekah took matters into her own hands" (Life Appl. Bible note).

How many times we are prone to take matters into our own hands rather than trust God and wait on Him.

Proverbs 3:5-6
Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. [6] In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

We must strive to achieve God's will in a right <u>way</u>, and wait upon god to work it out in His <u>time</u>.

Do you want God's blessing? Then get it His way, not your way or the world's way.

Conclusion:

Deception is wrong because it is a lie; it is the opposite of truth. It is a planned lie so as to trick someone into thinking something or believing something that is not true.

Forms of deception include:

<u>Hypocrisy</u> – When the hypocrite pretends to be something he/she is not
(SEE: Matthew 23:13-33)

<u>Cheating</u>

<u>Lying</u>

Why should we be truthful? Because <u>God is truth</u>.

We must:

1. Love the truth -
   Prov. 8:7 - "For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abonomination to my lips."
   We are to "buy the truth and sell it not" (Prov. 23:23); we are to "love the truth" (Zech. 8:19).

2. Always tell the truth -
   Eph. 4:15 - "Speak the truth in love."
   God's truthfulness never ends (Ps. 11:5, 117:2); neither should ours.

3. Tell the truth, no matter what the cost -
   EX: Peter's lying in his denial - Mt. 26:69-74.
   God hates lying - Zech. 8:16, 17.

4. Tell the truth, even when others do not want to hear it -
   Gal. 4:16 - "Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?"

5. Tell the truth to your children -
   Is. 38:19 - "The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day: the father to the children shall make known thy truth."

6. Live your life according to the truth - Ps. 86:11
   "I will walk in thy truth" -- II Jn. 4; III Jn. 4.

7. Keep your word -
   Do what you say you will do.

8. Be sincere (genuine, not a hypocrite)
   Josh. 24:14 - "Now therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth."
   I Sam. 12:24 - Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things He hath done for you."
   Ps. 51:6 - "Behold thou desirest truth in the inward parts."
   Jn. 4:24 - Worship in "spirit and in truth."

9. Our church must uphold the truth.
   We are the "pillar and ground of the truth" (I Tim. 3:15).