

014 The Different Twins

MEMORY VERSE:

Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil. Proverbs 3:7

SCRIPTURES: Genesis 25:19-34

AIM: God forgives us even if we make mistakes.

Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan Aram and sister of Laban the Aramean.

Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was not able to have children. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. And the Lord blessed her with twins!

The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she prayed to the LORD to ask Him why.

The LORD said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples from within you will be separated;
one people will be stronger than the other,
and the older will serve the younger."

When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them.

The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was a quiet man, staying among the tents. Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!" (That is why he was also called Edom.)

Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright."

"Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?" Esau was so focused on his current need that he was willing to give up his inheritance. You see, as first born, Esau would become the leader of the family after his father's death, and would also receive a double-portion of his father's possessions.

But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob.

Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left.

Esau was foolish to give up his birthright, and Jacob was wrong to trick his brother that way.

As the result of Esau's foolishness, he gave up his right to be leader of the family.

Jacob used his brother's weakness as a way of getting what he wanted, rather than relying on God. Even though God told Rebekah that someday Jacob would lead Esau, **God did NOT approve of Jacob's deceitful ways. In fact, as we'll soon find out, Jacob's deceit led to a lot of bad consequences in his life.**