LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 02 Dec '18.................. Genesis 25-27 ..................... The Deceiver
2) 09 Dec .................. Genesis 28 .......................... Not Alone
3) 16 Dec .................. Genesis 29 .......................... Family?
4) 23 Dec .................. Genesis 30-31 ..................... Promise Kept
5) 30 Dec .................. Genesis 30-31 ..................... Home!
6) 06 Jan '19 .................. Genesis 32 ..................... Transformed
7) 13 Jan .................. Genesis 33 .......................... Reconciled
8) 20 Jan .................. Genesis 34 ..................... Sanctity of Life. Protect and Save
9) 27 Jan .................. Genesis 34-36 ..................... Assurance
10) 03 Feb .................. Genesis 37 ..................... Accept It
11) 10 Feb .................. Genesis 38-39 ..................... Tempted
12) 17 Feb .................. Genesis 40-41 ..................... Opportunity Knocks
13) 24 Feb .................. Genesis 42-50 ..................... Reunited

INTRODUCTION

• When is it appropriate to take matters into our own hands?

Genesis 25:1-11

Abraham Takes Another Wife and Some Concubines!

• Abraham had quite the legacy. His 1st wife, Sarai/Sarah bore him Isaac, the son of Promise. Gen 17

• Sarah, earlier, gave her maid, Hagar, to Abraham, who bore him Ishmael at the age of 86. Gen 16

• Then Abraham wed Keturah who gave him 6 sons v6. Here, it is stated Abraham had concubines. More than likely the concubines were Hagar & Keturah

• v7-8. Abraham died at 175 – “an old man & satisfied”

• Was he satisfied because he had 3 wives?

• Or was he satisfied because he was in God’s will?

• Polygamy Question? What do you do if a polygamous Mormon family accepts the Lord and comes to church?

• Would you accept them wholeheartedly, and/or place constraints on them? What kind of constraints?

• Consider This. The early church did the following to minimize both polygamy (multiples wives) & divorce & remarriage (which is sequential polygamy)*:

1. They fully accept polygamous & blended families

2. They would not marry additional wives to a polygamous husband

3. They would not remarry a divorcee while their previous spouse was still living

4. Polygamous and divorced men or men who were married to a divorcee were not allowed to be elders or deacons


Genesis 25:12-18

Ishmael’s Legacy

• v11-16. Ishmael also had 12 sons as Isaac did.

• v18. Ishmael, for whatever reason, “settled in defiance of all his relatives” (NASB). An earlier passage states, “He’ll be a bucking bronco of a man, a real fighter, fighting and being fought, always stirring up trouble, always at odds with his family” (MSG). Gen 16:12

• Yet God promised to make Ishmael a great nation as well – They became Arabic nations... Gen 21:13, 18

Genesis 25:19-34

Isaac’s Twin Boys – Esau & Jacob

• v23. “...the older shall serve the younger...” – We seem to have favoritism from God (Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated – i.e., legal favoritism). Rom 9:13

• v28. We see that Esau was Isaac’s favorite, and Jacob was a momma’s boy. We have a recipe for disaster.

• v29-30. How should’ve Jacob waited on the Lord to fulfill the promise of “the older will serve the younger” instead of taking matters into his own hands?

Passage | Comments
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Sarah took matters into her own hands and gave her handmaid, Hagar, to her husband, Abraham, to father a child – and that didn’t turn out too well........... Gen 16

• Ishmael also had 12 sons as Isaac did.

• v5. Notice Isaac is blessed because of his dad’s obedience.

• They were not allowed to be elders or deacons

Jacob took matters into his own hand to inherit the birthright, and Esau vowed to kill him........... Gen 27:41

• Esau was Isaac’s favorite, and Jacob was a momma’s boy.

• We see that Esau was Isaac’s favorite, and Jacob was a momma’s boy.

Rebekah took matters into her hands to deceive her husband, Isaac, to abscond with a blessing for Jacob, & Jacob never saw his mom alive again .Gen 27

• Tamar (Gen 38:13-30) dressed up like a prostitute and got pregnant by her father-in-law, Judah, to claim her Biblical rights, and that barely turned out well .....Gen 38

Moses thought he was doing God a service by rescuing His people’s way, but he ended up a fugitive spending possibly 40 needless years in the desert. Ex 2

• Phinehas took matters into his own hands and killed an adulterous couple & saved 1,000s from a plague Num 25

• King Saul took matters into his own hand and lost his crown, for partial obedience is disobedience! 1Samuel 15

• Abigail took matters into her own hands and saved her clan from destruction

• Naomi took matters into her own hands to get Ruth to marry Boaz and it worked out quite well... Ruth 3

Principle to Live By: If there is foolish or sinful behavior, then it is appropriate to seek proper recourse, otherwise one could invoke problems for one’s self & others for generations

Isaac Lies and Gets Blessed by God

v1. A famine causes people to move around

• Are such events God-orchestrated or God-ordained?

• Are the hurricanes, fires, & floods we see today God-orchestrated or are they caused by man’s poor stewardship of earth’s resources (God-ordained)?

• How should we respond if they’re God-orchestrated?

v5. Notice Isaac is blessed because of his dad’s obedience. Principle to Live by: If you want your family to be blessed tomorrow, obey God today!

• v6-13. Isaac lies about Rebekah being his sister (she’s actually his 2nd cousin) and seems to benefit financially from the protection provided by Abimelech after the lie was discovered.

• So, is lying GOOD?

• Is lying hereditary (a generational curse) since Isaac’s dad did it too?

• Is there ever a time to lie without it being sinful?

BOY, HAVE I GOT A DEAL FOR YOU, BRO...
Passage | Comments
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**Biblical Principles on Lying / Withholding the Truth.**
- There are principles in Scripture where lying or withholding the truth seems justified to preserve innocent lives or when confronted with casting pearls (i.e., truth) before swine.
- Abraham & Isaac lied about their wives being their sisters, and they both walked away blessed...Gen 19, 20, 26
- Hebrew midwives lied to Pharaoh and reaped blessings from God...Exodus 1:15-21
- Rahab lied about the 2 spies, and she saved her family and became an ancestor of Jesus...Joshua 2
- King David ingrained insanity to protect his life...1Sam 21:13
- Jesus withheld the truth (did not cast pearls before swine) when questioned before his death...John 19:9
- Did Jesus lie when He said He had no intentions of going up to the Feast, but He went up anyway? Jesus had no intentions of going up to Jerusalem to make a spectacle of Himself as His brothers alluded to........John 7:4-14
- **More Thots.** We are not to give pearls of truth to swine & we need to be wise as serpents, gentle as doves...Matt 7:6; 10:16
- Therefore, it seems OK to conceal the truth for a higher purpose – not to harm, not for convenience sake, not to achieve gain – but to protect innocent lives from evil intent

**Fight Over Water Rights & God’s Promise to Bless**
- vv18-22. Quarrels are inevitable at home, work, & church
- Sometimes, the godly must yield for sake of peace
- Other times we can stand our ground as Paul did and take matters to court...Acts 25:11
- Godly wisdom discerns the difference...Jms 1:5; 4:1
- vv23-25. God shows up and promises to bless, not for Isaac’s sake, BUT for his dad’s sake (Abraham)
- How does God show up for us today?.........Heb 1:1-2

**Covenant with Abimelech**
- v28. Abimelech realized God was with Isaac, and Isaac was not known as a man of integrity
- What would it take for our friends, family, and co-workers to realize God is with us even with our own faults and warts? Does it take prosperity (vv12-14)?
- What kind of blessings do people need to see in our lives to convince them God is with us? Would or should the Fruit of the Spirit suffice?.................Gal 5:22-23

**Caution on Who You Choose to Marry**
- If Esau’s wives were believers in God, there probably would not have been any problem from Mom & Dad
- God still honors mixed marriages today by “binding together” spouses w/ rare exceptions...1Cor 7:10-15;39-40
- Exceptions being when the Law forbids such marriages for Jews since it polluted the land.........Ezra 10; Eze 36:18
- ....and same-sex unions are not bound by God...Mt 19:9
- Immoral/Porn/pair relationships are not honored by God...Lk 15:21
- John the Baptist lost his head because he challenged 2 unbelievers for their unlawful marriage......Mt 10:18

**Jacob’s Deception**
- Isaac questioned Jacob 3x. The 1st 2 questions were for information. The 3rd for validation
- How was Isaac so easily deceived? Since he had a favorite son, did he believe what he wanted to believe?
- Does favoritism cause problems today in the home? At work? In church? How so in church?
- How do we prevent the wrong type of favoritism?
- Is there an appropriate favoritism to show to certain people? To the young? To the handicapped? To the aged? To women? To minorities? To the rich or poor?
- Isaac blessed Jacob with the following: Power, Prosperity, Prominence, and Protection

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**The Stolen Blessing**
- vv33-35. The truth is out. Jacob deceived his dad and his brother to abscond with the blessing of the first born
- “...Yes, and he shall be blessed,” Why was this covenantal blessing so binding even with deceit?
- **Consider This.** The blessing Isaac gave was not based on a position of the 1st born, but on the person before whom he assumed to be the 1st born
- v37. Isaac told Esau, “Behold I-me-Isaac have made Jacob your master...” How did Isaac do this with his words? Why are words so important? Can we bestow such blessings on our children or on others TODAY? ☐ Yes | ☐ No | ☐ Maybe | ☐ Don’t Know | ☐ Depends
- vv38-40. Isaac’s blessing to Esau was more of a curse
- Making a living will not come easy – No Prosperity
- Violence will be the norm – No Peace
- A slave you shall be – No Freedom
- vv41-46. Esau vows to kill his twin brother. A lot of love going on here. Family reunions will never be the same.
- Momma rescues her favorite boy by sending him away, & the outcome is she will never see him again

**The Right of First Born Sometimes Went to Others**
The right of the first born was more of a cultural norm than a biblical mandate. The firstborn son typically received a double inheritance, and who would inherit his father’s role as head of the family. There are several exceptions where the 1st born was usurped by another:
- Isaac received the right of the 1st born instead of Ishmael because he was the son of promise from God.........................Gen 17:19
- Esau traded his right of 1st born to Jacob .........................Gen 25:29-34
- Ephraim received the right of the 1st born from his grandfather, Jacob, and at the angst of his father, Joseph..............................Gen 48:17
- Rueben lost his right of 1st born to Joseph because of immorality – he went to bed with his Dad’s other wife (Bilhah) ..........1Chron 5:1-2
- David, the youngest, received the right of the 1st born......1Sam 16:30
- Solomon received the right of the 1st born from his father, King David, who received a prophecy from God...............................1Chron 22:9

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS**
- To avoid causing problems for generations live a life of integrity
- If you find yourself needing to either lie or withhold the truth to save a life from destruction (as those who hid Jews during the Holocaust) be willing and prepared to pay the ultimate price

**NEXT WEEK: Genesis 28.** Jacob meets God for the first time and commits to be faithful if God is faithful.