

Listen, watch, or read the sermon on the website if you missed it. Turn to the back for an outline of the sermon.

This week's reading in the 2015/16 reading plan includes: Genesis 49-Exodus 5; Luke 2-8

Ice Breaker: Describe a time when “doing it your way” turned out to be a bad choice.

1. Discuss anything that jumped out at you in your private devotions this week.
2. Like Isaac and Jacob and Rebekah in the Genesis 27 account, do you notice that your default reactions to difficulty or challenges are often not “good”?
  1. Together read Colossians 3:1-13. What is Paul's primary direction in this passage that will enable us to “put to death” or “put off” the old self and “put on” the new self? Take note of verses 2, 10, and 16.
3. What significance does Genesis 25:21-23 have on the choices and actions of all parties in Genesis 27?
  1. How does this relate to your life and actions?
  2. Consider if there are areas in your life where you know what God has said, but you still do otherwise.
4. Did God's promise to Abraham depend upon the good behavior of his people?
  1. Do you personally find comfort and trust in this...or do you more see license and temptation?
  2. What Scripture would you refer to if you are tempted to twist this truth into license?
    1. Consider 1 John 1:5-2:6; Titus 2:11-15, and Romans 6
5. Is it right to manipulate God's precepts or straight up disobey him in order to get to where you are “certain” that he wants you to be (to be happy or safe or prosperous maybe)?
  1. Consider the deceitfulness of sin and the condition of the heart when we rationalize sin (cf. Heb 3:13).
  2. Consider the way we are called to travel (cf. Matt 7:14, 1 Pet 2:19-21, Rom 8:16-17)

**I. Our heart defaults to doing things our way.**

- A. God had already said the promise would continue through Jacob. (Gen. 25:21-23)
- B. Esau was godless and unworthy steward of the promise. (Gen. 25:29-34; 26:34-35; 27:41; 28:6-9)
- C. Jacob was a deceiver. (Gen. 25:29-34; 27:18-29)
- D. When we insist on “cutting our own path,” God will let us.

**II. Doing things our way always brings problems.**

- A. Isaac and Rebekah played favorites with their boys. (Gen. 25:27-28)
- B. Isaac ignored God’s word and sought to pass the blessing to his first-born and favorite son. (Gen. 27:1-4)
- C. Rebekah felt she needed to help God get His will done through a deceitful scheme. (Gen. 27:5-17)
- D. Jacob told outright lies to his father to steal the blessing Isaac intended for Esau. (Gen. 27:19, 20, 24)
- E. Esau wanted the spiritual blessing despite having already sold his birthright. (Gen. 27:30-40)
- F. Rebekah and Jacob’s deception “worked” in a sense, but because it was sinful severed and their family forever. (Gen. 27:33)
- G. Despite Jacob’s lack of character, God’s chose to redeem Jacob by His grace and continue the promise. (28:13-15)

**Sermon Idea:** “Living our way always means more troubles, but following God’s will brings us peace and contentment.”

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make straight your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6*

*“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.” Psalm 32:8*