

Closing: *God shoots crooked arrows straight!*

- A. *Is God sovereign, or am I?*
 - i. My decisions are real and have consequences, but they cannot keep God from accomplishing His purposes.
 - ii. *You and I, through our own folly, or someone else through their sin against us, cannot so mess up our life that God is kept from accomplishing His purposes in and for us?*
- B. Your holiness does not accomplish the purposes of God in your life. Rather, God sovereignly purposes and works to accomplish your holiness even through your own folly.

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- Have you ever questioned whether or not your questionable origins, or poor decisions of your own, or sins of another against you, had so altered your course in life that God's purposes could never be achieved in you?
- Why do you think the doctrine of God's sovereignty brings great hope and comfort to believers when they understand it?
- In what sense was it a test for Rebekah's faith when she overheard the conversation between Isaac and Esau in scene 1? How does she do in response to this test?
- Isaac was lured into a spiritual dullness over a long period of time by his desires of the flesh (see 25:28). What desires of the flesh does the enemy use to lure you away and entice you? Are you battling them? Or do you think you have it under control?
- How does Esau teach us that if we can't be content with what God has assigned us and keep grasping for more, we may end up with nothing at all?
- What stood out to you in this text? What truths ministered to you most? What truths of the Gospel does it highlight?

Genesis: Truth for Understanding Our World (Part 18)

Can God Shoot Crooked Arrows Straight?

Jerry Cisar — October 2, 2016

Text: Genesis 27:1 — 28:9

Introduction: A Dysfunctional Family

- A. Thoughts We Wrestle With
- B. *Can I, through my own folly, or someone else, so mess up my life that God cannot accomplish His purposes for me?*

I. Isaac's Slip (27:1-4)

- A. How has Isaac become willing to deceptively work in order to attain his own will and purpose against God's will and purpose?
 - i. Isaac's inability to see is a physical reality and symbolic of a spiritual condition.
 - ii. How did Isaac contract his spiritual condition? (v4)
 - a) Waltke: *"Isaac may be understood as having left his former spirituality (see 25:21) to become like Esau, who sold his birthright for lentil stew (25:32-34)."*
 - b) John warns us of this spiritual condition. (1 John 2:15-17)
 - c) Jesus warns of it. (Mark 4:19; Luke 8:14)
- B. The Test

II. Rebekah's Reprisal (27:5-17)

- A. Isaac and Rebekah are the chief instigators.
 - i. *ESV: Now therefore, my son, obey my voice as I command you.*
 - ii. Isaac's plan tests Rebekah's faith more than Jacob's.

- B. *Rebekah stakes her life on her belief that God will bless Jacob over Esau based on the Lord's word when they were in the womb. She has no fear that this plan will fail.*
 - i. Like Rebekah, God's people often try to help God accomplish His will by deceptive and manipulative measures rather than prayer, obedience, and faith.
 - ii. God will use, even the sinful failings of man to accomplish His purposes. Those sins will often produce some bad fruit in our lives, but His plans will be accomplished.

III. Jake's Juke (27:18-29)

- A. Isaac's Suspicion

- B. Isaac's eye-sight failed him, but his ears told him the truth.
 - i. Only problem? He ignored them (just as he is ignoring God's word spoken through Rebekah).
 - ii. Isaac has allowed his desires to make him spiritually dull.

- C. Jacob's performance was flawless.
 - i. When all is said and done, despite the poisonous seeds sown that will be reaped later, God's purposes prevail.
 - ii. This way of God's working is at the very core of the Gospel.
 - a) Act 2:22-24

b) Act 4:27-28

Our confidence and hope rest in our knowledge that to those who love Him, God works all things into good. That is a promise we must hold onto tightly.

IV. Esau's Reversal (27:30-40)

- A. Birthright Inheritance and Blessing
 - i. Hebrews 12:16-17

 - ii. The birthright inheritance was a double portion.
 - iii. Esau's question: *"Haven't you reserved any blessing for me?"*
 - a) Isaac intended to double-cross Jacob, but ended up double-crossing Esau.
 - b) Jacob – heel. To take hold of; to follow with evil intent; to follow with good intent; to follow (to take the place of)

- B. Integrity of Speech

V. Rebekah's Rescue (27:41-45)

- A. Rebekah's hearing is apparently flawless.

- B. Rebekah has a plan to not only save Jacob's life, but send him where he may be able to find a wife that isn't a Canaanite.

VI. Isaac's Acceptance (27:46 – 28:5)

- A. The bitterness brought on Isaac and Rebekah by Esau's wives.
 - i. Genesis 18:19
 - ii. Esau is disqualified for carrying on the blessing.

- B. Isaac accepts and acknowledges God's choice of Isaac to carry on the blessing.