

When Isaac Was Old and He Could Not See

Gen 26 ³⁴When Esau was forty years old, he took as wives Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite. ³⁵And they were a grief of mind to Isaac and Rebekah. 27 ¹Now it came to pass, when Isaac was old and his eyes were so dim that he could not see, that he called Esau his older son and said to him, “My son.” And he answered him, “Here I am.” ²Then he said, “Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death. ³Now therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me. ⁴And make me savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die.” ⁵Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt game and to bring it. ⁶So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, “Indeed I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying, ⁷‘Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the LORD before my death.’ ⁸Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you. ⁹Go now to the flock and bring me from there two choice kids of the goats, and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves. ¹⁰Then you shall take it to your father, that he may eat it, and that he may bless you before his death.”

► In CS Lewis’ *The Horse and his Boy*, what happens to Shasta on the mountain trail?

► Who is Shasta in our text, and why do we usually miss it?

► If _____ goes over the cliff, he takes everyone with him – even if Rebekah & Jacob had behaved like angels. But if Isaac behaved like an angel, the _____ disappears, and so does Rebekah’s & Jacob’s questionable conduct.

► Isaac is functionally blind, both physically and spiritually – he can no longer see what is right in _____ of him. In spite of God’s decree that “the older will serve the younger” (Gn25.23), Isaac is determined to make _____ the heir and covenant head.

► How has God made it clear to Isaac that his promises and covenant are not about normal human conception, inheritance, and bloodlines, but about Christ who is to come, who will be the Son of promise, miraculously conceived, who thru his sacrificial death and resurrection would become the only one in all of human history qualified to inherit God’s promises — but who will also share his inheritance with all those and only those united to him by faith?

– Like Christ, Isaac was a _____ of promise.

– Like Christ, Isaac was miraculously _____.

– Like Christ, Isaac was offered by his father on the _____ as a picture of Christ’s death, then received back at the last second as a picture of Christ’s resurrection.

– Like Sarah, Rebekah was _____ and conceives only by miracle of God.

– Like Abraham, Isaac has two sons, and as God did with Isaac and Ishmael, so God does with Jacob and Esau – he _____ the normal rules of human inheritance and decrees that the younger will be the heir and covenant head. And God will continue the same pattern with Jacob’s sons and with Jesse’s sons.

► God keeps putting people on the horns of a dilemma: Will they place their _____ in normal human conception, inheritance, and bloodlines, and what they think it will bring them? Or will they give that up and place their hope wholly in _____ and what they gain thru him? That's where Isaac finds himself.

► We often _____ what God is doing in our text, due to an erroneous stereotype concerning Jacob and Esau.

Gen 25²⁷ Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but Jacob was a mild man, dwelling in tents.”

Gn 6⁹ Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

Job 1¹ Job ... was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.

Gn 17¹ “I am God Almighty; Walk before Me and be blameless.”

Heb 11⁹ By faith [Abraham] dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; ¹⁰ for he waited for the city ... whose builder and maker is God.

Gn 25³⁴ Esau despised his birthright.

Heb 12¹⁶ lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.

Gn 25²⁸ Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game

► Rom 8.28 says God works “_____ things,” not just holy, righteous, and wise things, “together for good ... to those ... called according to his purpose, to conform them “to the image of His Son.” How do we see God’s hand in our text?

– 1) Isaac is highly skeptical of Jacob, yet _____ him anyway.

– 2) The timing of the events – they _____ together like the shuffling of a deck of cards.

– 3) Isaac’s response when he learns the truth (33).

► What is Isaac’s “trembling” from?

► When did Isaac bless Jacob and Esau “by faith”?

Heb 11²⁰ By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

► At some point in our lives, we are all _____.