

## Patriarchal blessing

Trembling uncontrollably, Isaac realizes that he had just been tricked out of the blessing meant for his favorite first born son Esau. In his quest to thwart God's plan he had called his son (Esau) and instructed him to go to the wild and hunt a wild game for him. Prepare him his favorite dish because he thought at his age of 137 years, with blindness having set in that his death was imminent, so he wanted to bless his son before he died.

Eavesdropping on this conversation is Rebekah, Isaac's wife. Having heard the whole conversation she decides to put her own plan into action. She also calls her favorite son Jacob and sends him to get young goats so she could prepare and have Jacob present it to his father in place of Esau. Jacob protesting weakly to the plan and fear of being found out tells his mother, "my brother Esau is a hairy man and my skin is smooth. What if my father touches me? He will see that I am trying to trick him and he will curse me instead of blessing me." **Gen 27:11-12 (NLT)**

Rebekah determined that her plan had to work firmly replies to Jacob, "then let the curse fall on me my son!" **Gen 27:13 (NLT)**

It's quite fascinating considering both Jacob and Esau are 77 years old twins born of the same parents. Jacob would have stood his ground, but he went and got the young goats Rebekah wanted and she prepared a delicious meal, just the way Isaac liked it. She then took the clothes of his older son and had Jacob wear them. Also covering his arms and smooth parts of his neck with the skin of the young goats, she asks Jacob to take the food to his father.

Jacob playing by the script with less protestations, is asked by Jacob how he found the game so quickly-to which he replies, "The lord your God put it in my path." **Gen 27:20 (NLT)**. His father asks him to come closer so he could touch his arms which felt hairy just like Esau's. But Isaac still doubting if he was Esau inquires, "Are you really my son Esau?" As the expected, Jacob the con man replies, "yes I am!" (**ver. 20**)

Isaac ate the food Jacob had brought and drank the wine. He then asks Jacob to come closer and kiss him as if to dispel his doubt one last time. He exclaims after smelling the clothes Jacob is wearing, "ah the smell of my son is like the outdoor, which the lord has blessed." It's quite evident who he favors among his sons. The blind, satisfied Isaac goes ahead and unwittingly blesses Jacob. The deceit he and his mother had effected on Isaac was concluded.

Based on this episode in Isaac's life, patriarchal blessing can be passed down from either the mother or father. When you are a parent, the whole deal about parenting comes with it some divine imperative or responsibility. When you have someone younger who calls you dad or mum, it comes with it duty and obligation-doing away with the notion that fatherhood is only a male parent. Fatherhood generically means both fathers and mothers because we cannot dismiss the fact that there are ladies raising children on their own but even in such cases, you have a fatherhood responsibility of how you raise your children.

Having established the immense accountability and duty to the children we are raising, we cannot afford to be careless with our actions and words. Asking God to give us strength, grace and wisdom in his power, will help us as God's people; because this is a house of faith, to execute our responsibilities in a way that glorify Jesus Christ.

In recognition of these, and gleaning from this story we need to know and appreciate that;

### **1. Every child is unique;**

From the life of Esau and Jacob, having been born twins and raised by the same parents they grew up each with their own personalities. Esau was a man of the outdoors, hunting and liking the wild. He had also low regard for his birth right evidenced by his trading it with a bowl of bread and lentil stew. His brother Jacob was reserved and man acquainted with matters of the kitchen and home, he had smooth skin and a con. Isaac having known the destinies of his children wanted to change that which God had said about them by having his way but failing miserably. On the other hand Rebekah not trusting Gods plan decided to help God achieve what he had said to her concerning her children. It caused her not to see the blessing she had orchestrated in her son's life.

As parents, our responsibilities lies in raising the children in our custody in a Godly way bearing in mind that God created each them differently with their own uniqueness and peculiarities. Having that awareness, our duty is to raise them in the way God has instructed us knowing that the blessing on each child is predetermined. We should not impose ourselves on our children and the dreams we did not achieve ourselves on them. For example grilling into a child to be a doctor and so forth while they are meant to be something else.

### **2. Every blessing should be verbal**

When Isaac got ready to bless his sons he verbally spoke out the blessing to his sons. Looking at the story we should know as parents that whatever we speak in the lives of our children creates a certain destiny. Looking also at the story of mike Tyson his parents used to call him mean mike and he ended up being the heavy weight boxer he was. That is why we as parents should not take lightly the words we speak to our children.

### **3. Every blessing should be consistent**

Even after being tricked by Jacob, Isaac exclaimed to Esau "And yes, that blessing must stand!" **Gen27:33** NLT. Observing how Isaac responded to being tricked, it shows how consistent he was. He never changed the blessing out of anger. His disappointment that the blessing had gone to the wrong recipient did not get in the way of the blessing. Looking at this, parents should unswervingly speak blessings into the lives of our children and not be given to our own selfish desires or direction their lives should take. It's important that we school ourselves on the premise that anger or preference should not determine our actions. What we speak to our kids takes a life of its own.

### **4. Every blessing declares a special future**

Every careless word we speak declares a special future in the lives of our children. This is evidenced by how Esau cried after discovering Jacob had stolen his blessing. Bearing in mind that he was 77yrs and macho by all standards-He demanded of his father to bless him even with one blessing that he

had reserved. He knew that whatever would be spoken by his father would come to pass. Esau of the wild knew he had to get a blessing. Fascinating that all that Isaac spoke to him came to pass. The same drive caused Rebekah to devise a plan to trick her husband knowing full well the importance of the blessing.

Bearing this in mind the words we speak to our children chart the way and how they turn out to be. This goes to show the importance of speaking words that build the lives of our children and avoiding those that destroy. In essence whatever words we speak to them and their lives are seeds we should be prepared to harvest in future.

## **5. Gentle touch**

Constant gentle, holding and touching our children gives them a sense of belonging. It shows that you are giving them attention, it's a sign of affection and also gives them affirmation that they are important. Isaac touched the arms of his son and kissed him as a sign of affection. Then went ahead to pronounce a blessing over his life. For many animals touch is strong communicator of emotions, a signal that bonds parents to their young ones. Humans too are no exception.

Looking at this story of Isaac and Rebekah, it is clear how God's sovereign ways make the sin of men serve his purpose. The pronouncements and actions of both parents came to pass. The blessings of Isaac on Esau's and Jacob's life happened.

The curse which Rebekah spoke that, "then let the curse fall on me my son." **Gen 27:13 NLT** came to pass. She never saw her son again including the blessing she so desperately wanted for his son Jacob to happen in his life.

Jacob himself was separated from his twin Esau for 20 years.

If Rebekah had trusted God, none of this would have happened. It is therefore incumbent on us to trust God even when what he has promised us doesn't look like it's coming any time soon. The very fact that God says he will bless us should be proof enough that he will keep his word and bring it to pass.