

Sept 11, 2022



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

◆
Lesson Leaders:

James Haymon

Class Leaders:

Inreach: Pat Hester

Deacon: C M Hester

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Work for justice; pray for mercy

COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:
The Bible writers understood that "equity" (fairness and justice) is a key component of God's love, they also knew that it will only be fully realized in the future

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy! For You shall judge the people righteously, And govern the nations on earth
(Ps 67:4 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", Nov 05, 2017)

**Series: God's Exceptional
Choice**

**UNIT 1: God Calls Abraham's
Family**

NEXT WEEK

Jacob Called Israel
(Gen 32:22-32)

God Chooses the Younger Twin Gen 25:19-34

Lesson Background and Introduction

Readers should be unimpressed with the attitudes and actions of the individuals described in this lesson. Isaac and Rebekah each favored one of their sons over the other. Esau desired immediate relief over long-term benefits. Jacob schemed and manipulated his brother for personal gain. A story that began with God's love and power transitions into a story of people pursuing selfish interests. However, we need not idealize any one human character, because the Lord is the protagonist of this story. He alone can make good out of less than ideal circumstances and less than ideal people (see Romans 8:28; compare Genesis 50:20). God worked through this deeply flawed family, and He will work in the lives of all people whom he has called. People of God should not strive to force his hand. Instead, we should trust that God's plans and purposes will be fulfilled, regardless of any attempts to circumvent or force those plans.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

The political struggles for the Middle East are as ancient as the account of Jacob and Esau. In some ways, the struggle between Israel and her neighbors of today can be traced to this time. The struggle between Jacob and Esau can also be seen to signify the struggle between the flesh and the Spirit. That is another struggle we face today. Paul explained in Galatians 5:17, "The flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." Just as Jacob and Esau continually struggled against each other, so we all face the struggle between our flesh and the Spirit, which war in our inner being. God has given us ultimate victory over the flesh, but we still must make a decision to live in the Spirit each day. We see a battle similar to this in the lives of Jacob and Esau. God had promised that He would make Abraham into a great nation and that his descendants would be a great people. This became a bit complicated when his grandsons were twins. According to Jewish tradition, as well as that of most of the world, the eldest son was the one who would receive the inheritance and the birthright. In this case, the struggle for supremacy began even before the twins were born. This led Rebekah to ask God for help, and God explained the struggle to her. The two were already at war. Often God's ways are different from man's ways, and they were in this case. God said the older would serve the younger, which is the opposite of what the world would naturally think. It is natural for us to think that we should fulfill our fleshly desires and needs. We do need to take care of our bodies, but in our culture that has become the ultimate goal. The Spirit has been ignored. Again, God's ways are different. While our world may say we need to give our flesh what it wants, God says our flesh should be in subjection to His Spirit. When Isaac and Rebekah had twins, they gave them names that signified who they would become. The Genesis account says Esau was "red" and "hairy" (25:25); so they named him "Esau." He was also called "Edom," which means red. The mention of red also anticipated his rugged nature. He would later live in Edom. The name "Jacob" means usurper, or one who grabbed at the heel to trip up an adversary. When Jacob was born second, he was grasping the heel of Esau. So the name fit. The account continues with Esau selling his birthright for a bowl of stew. Esau was guided by his fleshly desires and therefore did not see the value of his birthright. Jacob saw the value and used the opportunity to take the birthright from Esau. This episode shows that we should not sacrifice spiritual things to satisfy our fleshly appetites. Jacob used fleshly devices to obtain what God had promised, and that is not what God desires, either.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

The Husband: Isaac (Gen 25:19-20)

Role of genealogy (19)

Important because of covenant with God (Gal 3:17-18)

Important to prove the faithfulness of God (Isa 65:8-9)

Important because it allows the passing on of faith (Heb 11:20-21)

Role of age (20)

Age should be no problem if living a godly example (1 Tim 4:12)

No one should allow age to hinder following Jesus or stopping others from following Jesus (Matt 18:10)

Age should be no problem because God appoints His followers (Jer 1:4-8)

Age should be no problem if seeking and using God's wisdom and discernment (1 Kings 3:6-12)

The Wife: Rebekah (Gen 25:21-23)

Prayer about barrenness (21)

Prayers with vows (1 Sam 1:10-11)

Prayers that are heard (Luke 1:13-14)

Prayers because of age (2 Kings 4:14-18)

Struggles among family (22-23)

Struggles that are not necessarily good or bad (Rom 9:10-15)

Struggles that are against spiritual forces (Eph 6:12-13)

Struggles that can be overcome (Mark 13:12-13)

Struggles that have been foretold (Luke 12:51-52)

Struggles that involve betrayal by family (Luke 21:15-16)

Struggles that help determine God's will (1 Cor 11:18-19)

The Children: Esau and Jacob (Gen 25:24-28)

Every child has different characteristics (24-26)

Difference in occupations (Gen 4:2)

Difference in obedience (Matt 21:28-31)

Difference in commitment (Luke 15:29-32)

Difference in priorities (Luke 10:38-42)

Abilities does not make the child (27)

The amount of money made from our abilities does not mean that we are following God (Acts 16:16-18)

Even if we are confident in our abilities, God knows our hearts (Luke 22:31-34)

We must be humble and submit all power and control to God (2 Cor 12:7-9)

Parents have a major role in the molding of children (28)

God's way of training children is out of love, not regiment (Ephes. 6:4)

Disobedience of the parents will have effects on the children (Numbers 14:18)

Parents are to encourage not discourage (Col 3:21)

The Rival: Birthright (Gen 25:29-34)

Rivalries start when we put ourselves in situations of temptation (29)

Never think we can associate with temptation and not be affected (Proverbs 6:27-28)

If we dig a hole, we may fall in it (Psalm 7:15)

Sin associated with unholy decisions hinders our spiritual growth (Proverbs 5:22)

Rivalries start when we make rash decisions based on our desires (30)

We forget that God knows our motivations for making decisions (Acts 5:1-5)

Others are also affected by our bad decisions (2 Sam 11:2-5)

Rivalries start when we when we are tempted by offers of satisfaction (31-32)

Don't let others persuade us into sin, regardless of the worldly compelling reasons (Exodus 32:20-26)

Don't let relationships come before God (Judg 16:15-20)

In rivalries God always gives us a way out (33)

God will not allow temptation beyond our limits (1 Cor. 10:13)

The "out" may not be deliverance on the physical level (Dan 3:16-18)

Realize that God works all things for the good (Rom 8:28)

Our reliance must be on God and Him only (2 Cor 1:8-10)

Rivalries fuels our rebellion against God (34)

Yielding to jealousy causes rebellion (1 Sam 18:8-9)

Disobedience causes us to run away from God (Jonah 1:1-4)

Our yielding and rebellion grieves the Holy Spirit (Isa 63:8-10)

Temptation of fear causes us to rebel by trusting and relying on others rather than God (Ezek 17:15)

Yielding to our own thinking causes us to be obstinate toward God (Isa 65:2)