

## Gen 27 When Sensual Appetites Rule the Heart

**Genesis 26:34 - 27:1** <sup>34</sup> When Esau was forty years old he married Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite; <sup>35</sup> and they brought grief to Isaac and Rebekah.

When Isaac was 40, Abraham sought for him a wife who would be spiritually sensitive. When Esau turned 40, there is no mention of Isaac taking any initiative to do likewise, nor does it appear that he gave Esau any guidance or direction in choosing a wife. Isaac is an absent father. The consequence: “grief to Isaac & Rebekah” Furthermore, there is no rebuke from Isaac to his son. He is not objective about his son – his son brought him “wild game” (25:28). Worse still, Isaac continues to use Esau as a vehicle for his own sensuality.

**Genesis 27:1-4** <sup>NAU</sup> **Genesis 27:1** Now it came about, when Isaac was old and his eyes were too dim to see, that he called his older son Esau and said to him, "My son." And he said to him, "Here I am." <sup>2</sup> Isaac said, "Behold now, I am old *and* I do not know the day of my death. <sup>3</sup> "Now then, please take your gear, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me; <sup>4</sup> and prepare a savory dish for me such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, so that my soul may bless you before I die."

Isaac is portrayed as nearly physically blind, a telling detail of his spiritual condition as well. At this point, Isaac’s sensuality has escalated from a seed within the soul, to the driving force of his life (“tasty food” is used 6X; “games” is used 8X; “love” is used to describe his affections for food – not his wife). Now he has become a man who is so desirous that his son feed his appetite that he will risk reversing a divine choice and bless what God has cursed.

Providentially, Rebekah overhears Isaac’s conversation with Esau. Rebekah should have confronted Isaac’s planned disobedience directly, but by now the couple appears so divided that they only speak to one another through their children. Throughout this entire episode, there is no direct dialogue between Isaac and Rebekah – a tell tale sign of his passivity and disintegrating marriage.

Sadly, Rebekah does not use her gifts of initiative and industry to confront Isaac’s sensuality; rather she achieves her end by catering to it. She uses Jacob to deceive his father and betray his brother and offers to take full responsibility for the curse in the event of failure (27:13) (she essentially pronounced a judgment on herself). She prepares the savory stew while Jacob dresses in a ridiculous “Halloween” costume of animal skins. The scene borders on the ridiculous, and yet that is the point. By the end of Isaac’s life, sensuality has turned “Mr. Laughter” into a sordid joke.

**Genesis 27:21-27** <sup>21</sup> Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come close, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not." <sup>22</sup> So Jacob came close to Isaac his father, and he felt him and said, "The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau." <sup>23</sup> He did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him. <sup>24</sup> And he said, "Are you really my son Esau?" And he said, "I am." <sup>25</sup> So he said, "Bring *it* to me, and I will eat of my son's game, that I may bless you." And he brought *it* to him, and he ate; he also brought him wine and he drank. <sup>26</sup> Then his father Isaac said to him, "Please come close and kiss me, my son." <sup>27</sup> So he came close and kissed him; and when he smelled the smell of his garments, he blessed him and said, "See, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field which the LORD has blessed;

### Isaac appeals to his sense for discernment

Seeing – virtually blind, he can not tell this ridiculous scenario

Hearing – His ears tell him it is Jacob. He is unable to discern the blasphemous words of Jacob, “The Lord gave me success” In the OT, the “ear” is the most important organ of spiritual receptivity. “Hear O Israel” Deut. 20:4

Touch – His touch tells him that it is Esau

These two senses come into conflict. Which has the greater sensitivity? (the ear!)

His sensuality causes him to lean towards what he “feels” rather than what he “hears.”

Isaac is done in by the smell of the savory meal and the smell of Esau’s clothes - the smell of Jacob’s gamey garments after the savory meal lift Isaac’s senses into such a state of ecstasy that he crosses the ultimate moral boundary and blesses what God has cursed.

In the end, instead of rebuking his son, he has become like his son (Esau – who sold his birthright for a single meal to Jacob). Isaac demonstrated a willingness to throw away the family’s spiritual destiny (the birthright) for a single meal. Though there is no rebuke left from his conscience, there is a severe rebuke from the Word of God – the last recorded words of Isaac: **Genesis 28:1-4** <sup>NAU</sup> So Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and charged him, and said to him, "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan. <sup>2</sup> "Arise, go to Paddan-aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father; and from there take to yourself a wife from the daughters of Laban your mother's brother. <sup>3</sup> "May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples. <sup>4</sup> "May He also give you the blessing of Abraham, to you and to your descendants with you, that you may possess the land of your sojournings, which God gave to Abraham." Gen. 35 – Isaac died at the age of 180 years old.

Rebekah also drops from the pages of Scripture as a result of her manipulation. Her maid Deborah gets an obituary (35:8), but she receives none (Gen 49:31 – Rebekah buried next to Isaac, along with Abraham & Sarah). Last words of Rebekah **Genesis 27:46** <sup>46</sup> Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am tired of living because of the daughters of Heth; if Jacob takes a wife from the daughters of Heth, like these, from the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?"

	Understanding	Method	Consequence
Isaac	Wrong	Wrong	No significant mention after this section of scripture
Rebekah	Right	Wrong	Blanked in the rest of scriptures. No obituary – nurse Deborah gets one. Never sees her son, loses her other son. Left in a lonely marriage suffering with the foreign wives of Esau.
Esau	Wrong	Wrong	Disinherited
Jacob	Right	Wrong	Never sees his mother again. 20 yrs in a hard labor camp. Deceived by clothes on his wedding day. Working for Mr. deception – Uncle Laban

This is a dysfunctional family. God in his sovereignty continues the seed of the Elect in spite of their sinfulness. He will keep his covenant with Abraham, even though it hurts.

### Application

God will never ask us to use questionable methods to do the right thing. God is in control and we need to submit to his will. He doesn’t need our help, but our obedience.

We must watch our sensual appetites of they may lead us astray – Jesus, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”