

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

The Eternal Purpose of
God Above the Fray

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Genesis 26:34-28:9

Theme: God's eternal and saving purposes cannot be moved, so remain steadfast.

Introduction: Scripture teaches the comprehensive sovereignty of God who works his will through Providence. It also teaches human responsibility, including the sin and striving of even God's people. As we examine the interactions of Jacob and Esau, and Isaac and Rebekah, we can see the truth of God's sovereign goodness shine through.

We find three fallen responses and the one God who reigns over it all:

1. The scene-setting partiality of a passive soul

Isaac led his family into sinful partiality: he loved Esau, and Rebekah loved Jacob. In Gen 27, Isaac only intended to bless Esau, and not Jacob. He was failing to love and lead his entire family.

Isaac's passivity was self-interested, and while peace may have appeared on the surface, underneath were deep troubles just waiting to surface.

2. The embittering indifference of a worldly soul

Esau demonstrated repeated indifference to God and his commands. Hebrews 12:16-17 identifies him as a man who was sexually immoral and unholy.

He married two Canaanite women (26:34-35), disobeying the Lord. They made life bitter for his parents.

Esau prioritized his appetites above God, and his eventual sorrow at the consequences was worldly, not godly—he sought relief, not God's forgiveness.

3. The deceitful strivings of compromised souls

Rebekah hatched a plan to deceive and take advantage of Isaac. Instead of trusting God's promise, she sought her own ambitions and by her own hand. Perhaps she feared that Isaac would thwart God's plan, and that Jacob would not receive the blessing he was 'due,' but her actions were unbelief and rebellion. Jacob passively cooperated, barely objecting, and the result was a deepening of the divisions and problems in the family. He received the paternal blessing, but wickedly and at great cost.

4. The eternal purpose of God above and within the fray

Though everyone in the story sinned greatly, still the Lord's purposes were accomplished. His plans never fail. He always prevails.

Each person also suffered consequences for their sins. Relationships were broken and the family was in shambles. And still the Lord was at work.

Questions:

1. What struggles are in your life because of your sins? Because of the sins of others?
2. How has the Lord already worked redemption in your life?
3. How is the Lord calling you to trust him now? How can his grace sustain you?