

## The Blessing

Genesis 27:25-34

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#### THE MEN'S THESAURUS:

- When a man says: "IT'S A GUY THING" He means: *"There is no rational thought connected with this, and you have no chance of making it logical."*
- When a man says "IT WOULD TAKE TOO LONG TO EXPLAIN" He means: *"I have no idea how it works."*
- When a man says "THAT'S INTERESTING." He means: *"Are you still talking?"*
- When a man says "I CAN'T FIND IT." He means: *"It didn't fall into my outstretched hand, so I'm completely clueless where it could be."*

Happy Father's Day. Regardless if you are a father or not, this message applies to you, also.

Fatherhood has changed a lot over the years, but I don't think God's perception of what a father is to be and do has changed.

This is why I want to look at the story of Isaac bestowing his blessing on Jacob, which is found in Genesis 27.

In ancient times, a blessing was intended for the eldest son. Here in Genesis 27, we see that Esau was to receive this blessing, but through deception, the blessing was given to Jacob, the younger son.

If you are not familiar with the story. Isaac and Rebecca had twin sons, Esau and Jacob, who weren't anything alike.

Genesis 25:24-26, *“When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau’s heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them.”*

Esau was an outdoorsman with hairy arms and hands. He loved hunting and fishing. Jacob was a “momma’s boy” who spent a lot of time with his mother.

What you need to understand is that regardless that they born at the same time, Esau appeared first and was recognized as the oldest of the two.

This is why in this 27th chapter of Genesis, we find that Isaac, who has grown old and blind, has decided it’s time to pass on his blessing to Esau, his oldest son.

In Biblical times, a blessing was sacred; it was important. It was a formal passing on of the father’s honor and authority to a designated individual, usually the eldest son.

We see the importance of this played out in Genesis 15 when Abram was telling God why he needed a son.

Genesis 15:2, *“But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?”*

Since the oldest son assumed the leadership responsibilities of the family, he also received a double share of his father’s possessions.

So, the bestowing of the blessing wasn’t just the passing of non-tangible rewards, but it included property and other physical items.

This was an important event.

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In Genesis 27:2-4 Isaac tells his son Esau, *"I am now an old man and don't know the day of my death. Now then, get your weapons—your quiver and bow—and go out to the open country to hunt some wild game for me. Prepare me the kind of tasty food I like and bring it to me to eat, so that I may give you my blessing before I die."*

When Esau leaves to hunt wild game, Rebecca seizes the opportunity to secure this important blessing for Jacob, her favorite. She quickly prepares some tasty food and tells Jacob to put on Esau's clothes.

Then, to help fool Isaac, she puts goat skins on Jacob's hands and arms to make them feel hairy and sends him in with the food to ask for Isaac's blessing.

As Jacob enters his father's tent, he begins the deception.

Genesis 27:19, *"Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat some of my game so that you may give me your blessing."*

Now Isaac was suspicious because Jacob's voice didn't sound like Esau's. So, he asked, *"How did you find it so quickly, my son? The LORD your God gave me success."*

Continuing in verses 21-23, 26-29 *"Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come near so I can touch you, my son, to know whether you really are my son Esau or not." Jacob went close to his father Isaac, who touched him and said, "The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau." He did not recognize him, for his hands were hairy like those of his brother Esau; so he blessed him."*

*“Then his father Isaac said to him, “Come here, my son, and kiss me.” So he went to him and kissed him. When Isaac caught the smell of his clothes, he blessed him and said, “Ah, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field that the Lord has blessed. May God give you of heaven's dew and of earth's richness—an abundance of grain and new wine. May nations serve you and peoples bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may the sons of your mother bow down to you. May those who curse you be cursed and those who bless you be blessed.”*

Gary Smalley wrote a book entitled, *“The Blessing.”* In it he examines the blessing that Isaac bestowed upon Jacob

*Gary writes, “The blessing contains several ingredients that ought to be present in every home today. And when those ingredients are present, and practiced consistently, then our children will grow up solid, secure and confident of themselves, able to go out into the world and function normally. But if those ingredients are absent in the home, then too often the child ends up steeped in bitterness and anger.”*

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The first ingredient of this blessing was a meaningful touch. Notice verse 22, *“Jacob went close to his father Isaac, who touched him.”* Verse 26 says, *“Then his father Isaac said to him, “Come here, my son, and kiss me.”*

This is not an isolated incident in scripture. Almost every time a blessing is bestowed in Hebrew culture, it involves touching like the laying on of hands, a kiss, an embrace, something that conveys acceptance and love.

The 10th chapter of Mark says that people brought children to Jesus so that He could touch them.

Jesus took them and placed them on his knee, and laid His hands upon them, and the scripture says, *“He blessed them.”*

Jesus knew children needed to feel loved and accepted. He touched them and blessed them.

It’s important to do that in our homes, also. When children are small you can’t communicate love with words because they don’t understand words yet.

The best way to communicate love to a small child is to demonstrate it by touching them, cuddling them, and holding them close.

Age doesn’t matter. Jacob was 40 years old when Isaac touched him and kissed him to convey the blessing to him.

It’s important to continue to communicate love, acceptance and affection in some meaningful way regardless the age.

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The second ingredient of a blessing is a spoken message of affection and love. Listen as Isaac blesses his son in the last part of verse. 27, *“Ah, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field. . .”*

I suppose that today’s child wouldn’t consider it a compliment to be told, *“You smell like dirt.”*

But to an outdoorsman like Isaac, who thought he was speaking to Esau, the smell of a field ready for harvest was a great smell. It was a compliment, a positive message that communicated love and affection.

Too often parents are quick to criticize and remind their children of their mistakes. *“You’re so clumsy, you spilt your milk, again?” “You’re lazy.” “Can’t you do anything right?”* Words of criticism cause a child to withdraw.

There's always room for constructive criticism, but it's more important to communicate love through words.

Words that say, *"You're worth something. I'm glad that God gave you to us. You're better than any Christmas present I could ever receive. Father's Day is special just because you're here."*

Words that communicate acceptance and love need to be spoken over and over again, even when our children stumble and fall.

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Another ingredient of the blessing is assigning high value. Notice what Isaac says in verse 28, *"May God give you of heaven's dew and of earth's richness—an abundance of grain and new wine."*

He's saying, *"You're special, so I'm asking God to give you the best He has to give."*

We're constantly being told we should teach our children to have a positive self-image in order to build up their self-esteem.

It's also important to teach our children that they're *"so valuable that God even came into our world and died on the cross for them."*

But teaching value is not limited just to words, our actions say more than words.

Many times when a child comes to us, we're busy. We have one eye on the TV and one eye on them. We don't concentrate on what they're saying.

That's why, when your child comes to talk to you, turn off the TV, lay aside the iPad, and look them in the eye.

They have so many things they're anxious to tell us. So, look at them and listen to what they have to say! That small action communicates value.

That tells your child, *"You're worth something. You're more important to me than the ball game or news. You're an extremely valuable part of our family. I'm glad God gave you to us and whenever you have something you need to talk about, I'm here to listen to you."*

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The fourth ingredient is something we don't think about when they're young, their future.

In verse 29 Isaac says to Jacob, *"May nations serve you and peoples bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may the sons of your mother bow down to you. May those who curse you be cursed and those who bless you be blessed."*

Isaac is helping him to raise his sights and see that his future is bright. That's an important responsibility of parents.

We all know that passage in Proverbs 22:6 that says, *"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."*

The spiritual application of this verse is: *"If we teach our children about the things of God, when they're old they won't forsake them,"* but there's another application.

Since God made them special, we're to help our children find their niche in life. We're to help them discover who they are and why they've been made.

As they're growing up, we should help them understand their gifts and talents, and what they're best suited to do in life.

We're to counsel and guide them to become the kind of person God wants and made them to be.

The mistake most of us make, as parents, is we try to get our children to become what we want them to be, other than what God made them to be.

In the movie, "*Dead Poets Society*," there's a boy who wanted to become an actor when he grew up, but his father wanted him to be a doctor.

The school put on a play which his father reluctantly attended. His son was the star of the play and did such an outstanding job that he was given a standing ovation at the end.

After the play was over, the father took his son home and said, "*I'm not going to let you waste your life being an actor. I'm going to take you out of this school tomorrow and send you to a military academy.*" That night the boy committed suicide.

It's just a story, but I wonder how many people have tried to force their children into becoming something God never equipped them for or intended them to be.

Another story I have is about a little girl named Sandra who was raised in an adobe house in a rural area of New Mexico, without electricity and running water.

In fact, her mother and father had to drive to El Paso, 200 miles away, in order for her mother to be in the hospital when Sandra was born.

Because they were too far from any school, Sandra's parents home-schooled her. They ordered a variety of magazines to expose her to the outside world.

She grew up in a very wholesome environment. Her fondest memories of her family are of the times when the whole family went on vacation to visit state capitols.

They went into every capitol building west of the Mississippi and climbed their domes. She eventually went to Stanford University and graduated with honors.

Sandra Day O'Connor was the first woman to be seated on the Supreme Court of the United States all because her parents cared enough to help her see herself in the image in which God created her.

Maybe our children aren't that intelligent or gifted, but our responsibility, as parents, is to help them see who they really are and to help them prepare for a glorious future.

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### Conclusion

I believe these parts of a blessing, a meaningful touch, a spoken message, attributing a high value, and picturing a glorious future are the mortar that can hold a family together in this world we live in.

Remember, God is the perfect parent. In fact, He has conveyed to us all the ingredients of His blessing in just one verse of scripture.

*John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. Whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."*

This is a picture of a loving Father who reached down to touch us, speak to us, to tell us how valuable we are, and help us see the glorious future we have in Him.