

the Purpose *and* Promises of God

God's Purpose and our Sin

Summary

In this passage we again see God's sovereign grace in the fact that he blesses the undeserving. Sin and the messiness of people is so prevalent but even more so is the grace of God. Jacob received the blessing even though he deceived his family to get it. We would wonder why God still allowed him to receive the blessing until we recall that all of God's blessings are the result of his grace and not because we deserve them.

Outline

Introduction

When we think about sin we rightly acknowledge how ugly it is and the fact that it brings consequences with it. However, any examination of sin also helps us recall the fact that God loves to be gracious to sinners and chooses to bless his people in spite of their sin. At the end of the day we never receive God's blessings because of what we do or don't do. We receive God's blessings because of his mercy and grace to us. In that sense,

Sin is ugly but God still works good;

Sin brings consequences but God still blesses;

Sin is powerful but God is more powerful still;

Notes:**Personal Application:****Reflection Questions**

1. Brainstorm and list the ways you see the ugliness of sin in this passage. What does that teach you about sin?
2. Brainstorm and list the consequences of sin that you see in this passage. What does that teach you about sin?
3. What would you personally have done with Jacob and Rebekah if you had been God? Why do you think God was still gracious in allowing the blessing to go to Jacob? What does this teach you personally about God's grace to you?
4. Read Genesis 50.15-21. What do you note about the sovereignty of God over sin in the history of Joseph's life? How does this impact your view of sinful actions against you personally?
5. How would you relate the principle of Genesis 50 (you meant it for evil but God meant it for good) to Jacob's sinful actions in Genesis 27? How can you relate that same principle to God's use of Judas' sinful actions to bring about the death of Jesus and the salvation of people? What encouragement does this bring you?
6. As you acknowledge your own acts of sin how are you surprised at God's blessing on your life? How does Ephesians 1.3 encourage you?
7. What impact on your life will this passage and discussion have? What should shift in the way you think and/or live?