

Pastors conference – Apr 2012 – Session 2 (Jacob)

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O Father, in Your presence we tarry. We just want to be like Mary, Lord. You told Martha, 'One thing you lack, Mary has got done the right thing.' Mary sat at Your feet and listened to Your Word. O Father, we just want to sit at Your feet and listen to Your Word. We want to give all our attention to Your voice and we cancel every spirit of distraction, every spirit of slumber, O Lord, keep us awake. In our weakness, You are our strength. Touch us O Lord. Speak to us. We all need You. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

As we continue to study the life of Jacob and Esau, I want our minds constantly re-orienting to the Word of God. Because our minds have been taken over by signs and wonders. 'A signs and wonders ministry.' Let me tell you, I believe in signs and wonders, if it agrees to the Word of God, not just for signs. At the end of every miracle, you should have grown in the Lord. You need to grow stronger in the Word. Every miracle has a purpose. The purpose is that you will grow stronger in the Lord. We don't seek miracles. We seek Jesus. When we seek Jesus, miracles seek us. I experienced more, more miracles in the past two years, than probably anybody alive at this point of time. I am talking about real wonders of God. Without stepping out of this hall, without doing anything, other than just speaking the word God says, from here. And I know He is God, because it is not possible for any man to do it. So, I believe in signs and wonders. I believe in miracles.

I know one thing - you and I need to sit at Jesus' feet like Mary. When He rises, Mary will be found near Him. Martha wasn't found. Martha was very busy. Resurrection morning also she was very busy. But Mary was there. And Mary got the Gospel of the risen Lord. She was found faithful, always sitting at His feet. So, the first message of the risen Savior is given to Mary, 'Go and tell My brothers, the Lord is raised'. When we sit at God's feet, and spend your time with the Word of God, the risen Savior will give you a message, and it will be His message. Then you don't have to worry about anything. Just release it to Him. God will take it, God will achieve the purpose, and it will bring forth victory.

Pastors, spend time with God's Word, spend time with God's Word! Don't be busy like Martha. We are called to preach, we are called to pray; ministry of Word and ministry of prayer. One man, who sits at God's feet, hears God's voice can bring two million people out. That's what Moses did. One man, who heard the voice of God!

When I first met you, last year, we had only one or two Churches. It all started from here. Today we have a hundred and seventy Churches in seventy countries with fourteen million members, including Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, UAE and entire Muslim world. And all the Pastors are Muslim converts. That's why I carry this (laptop) all the time with me, so that I can talk to my Pastors from there. I just talked to my Egypt Pastor. We have 35 Churches in Egypt and I haven't gone out of Hyderabad. That's why I said, 'I believe in a God who does miracles.' You just have to do what God tells you to do. You will not find my face anywhere. You will not find my poster anywhere. All you will hear is my voice. That's what God told me. You will be a voice.

Yesterday I was walking near the Medchal Road, and I was walking in these chappals (footwear) from the supermarket and I could hear God speaking to me, 'Dear Son, you are walking with your chappals, do you know that today you have a bigger ministry than Benny Hinn and Joyce Meyer? Will you still walk with me like this till the end? And never steal My glory from Me.' that's a question that God is asking. I know by the end of the year, we will have a thousand Churches. That's what God told us in the beginning of the year. We asked God for two hundred prisons. He has already given us seven hundred and fifty prisons we reach every week around the world. Nobody has to see our faces. Everybody has to see His face. There is only one face. His name is Jesus. We are just voices in the wilderness. That's why don't get carried away by TV ministries. God can't entrust a real ministry into your hands if, you are carried away by that. We don't take one rupee from outside this Church. Standing before God, I am telling you, for this Church whatever we do, we don't take one rupee outside this Church. We don't take one rupee from any of the hundred and seventy Churches.

We need to believe, or else it will be ministry of Esau. We have to believe it is possible with God. I know Pastors struggle with issue of money. But you have to believe. If I have to walk, I will walk. If I have to cycle, I will cycle. If it's a scooter, it is a scooter. Whatever it is, it should come your way. I will seek no other way; I will seek no other way. "You are a God who said, that You will judge my works. You will judge my thoughts, You will judge my words." Lord, when that day comes when I

stand before you, I want to have the confidence to look in your eye. Not be perfect, but we will walk in repentance constantly.

That's what we are looking at the tragedy of this family - Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, and Jacob. Only one repented. Isaac never repented. Rebekah never repented. Esau never repented. That's why their ends are so sad. Jacob repented and he ended up with God's glory. That is why out of Jacob comes the nation of Israel because he repented.

It is important, if we are sure our ministry is wrong, that we run to God and say, 'Lord, we cry out to you, forgive me, put me on the right track. My ministry doesn't bring glory to Your name, brings fame to me God, let this perish.' The ministry of Ishmael and the ministry of Esau, are made of self. Jacob wanted the things of God, but his method was wrong. Esau was willing to sell his anointing for a pot of stew. What is our pot of stew? What will we sell our anointing for? David sold it for women, Solomon sold it for women, Balaam sold it for money, the rich young ruler sold it for money, Judas sold it for money, Ananias and Sapphira sold it for money. What is our pot of stew? The enemy knows, the enemy knows. He was pursuing Isaac. Where can I catch him? Perfect son. Where is his weakness? One day he found that he likes meat. Ah, he loves biriyani, I will catch him there. Eat, eat, more eat. I have patience. I know a day will come; I will use your stomach to steal your destiny.

That is why we walk in repentance. Constantly going before God and saying, 'God, search my heart. I am no better than Esau. There is a pot of stew for which I would like to sell my birthright'. God has spoken. He said, 'I have given you my ordinances. I have given more than even Isaac.' Isaac only knew one thing; Isaac and Rebekah knew one thing – 'The elder will serve the younger.' Everything is on one Word that has been given. That is where they are tested. And that is where they failed. Esau was a profane man. Scripture calls him a proud man. *Malachi 1:3-4*,

Malachi 1:3-4

³ ***And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness. ⁴ Whereas Edom saith, We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; thus saith the Lord of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the Lord hath indignation forever.***

God says, "Esau I have hated, Jacob I have loved.' He may go to the mountains, but when judgment comes, I will make the mountains to waste. I will make waste his mountains. They may build, but I will pull down. And they shall be called a territory of wickedness." What shall they be called? A territory of wickedness! Esau's ministry is called a ministry of wickedness. Many will come to me that day. Saying, 'God, God, I prophesied in Your name, healed in Your name, preached in Your name'. You are workers of wickedness. They'll say, 'we did it all in Your name'. Jesus said, 'I don't know you'. We need to be very careful, the ministry that we do, brings glory to His name. *Book of Obadiah 1:3-4*. This is again about Esau. The vision of Obadiah - Verse 3 and 4,

Obadiah 1:3-4

³ ***The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground? ⁴ Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the Lord.***

'The pride of your heart has deceived you. 'Oh Esau, where do you dwell? Do you dwell in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high? You say in your heart, who will bring me down? Even if you ascend like an eagle, make your nest among the stars, from there I will bring you down'. *Exodus 33:21-22*,

Exodus 33:21-23

²¹ ***And the Lord said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock; ²² And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by ²³ And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.***

To Moses, God is saying, 'My Glory will pass in front of you. I will put you in the cleft of the rock and I will hide you from with My hand'. And now Moses is in Jacob. Moses came from Jacob. God is saying, 'Jacob I will hide you with My hand, and

I will protect you and I will let My glory go in front of you. Esau, you sit in the cleft, on your own and you will be dragged down.’ Two sons, from the same womb; because one was proud, running after the world, the other was allowed to be broken. One is covered by God’s hand; the other is pulled down by God’s hand. Because both Jacob and Moses were in the valley of humiliation they allowed God to prepare them in the valley. Esau was high and lifted up. Remember, when we are high and lifted up, then God cannot teach us. God says, ‘I search the hearts.’

Obadiah 1:6

⁶ ***Oh, how Esau shall be searched out! How his hidden treasures shall be sought after!***

God says, ‘I will search you out. I will search your heart out. You cannot hide from me.’ And this is judgment for Esau. It is not judgment for Jacob when he is searched out. It is restoration for Jacob. And God is always watching Esau going after Jacob. Verse 10,

Obadiah 1:10

¹⁰ ***For violence against your brother Jacob, Shame shall cover you, And you shall be cut off forever.***

God says it is Esau who persecutes Jacob. It’s not the world that persecutes the Church. It is the false Church and the false ministry that persecutes the name of Jesus. The Gentiles did not crucify Jesus. The High priests, the Scribes and the Pharisees crucified Jesus. The Gentile ruler said, ‘I see nothing wrong with him.’ Even now, it is the false Christianity that crucifies the name of Jesus.

Philippians 3:17-19

¹⁷ ***Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.*** ¹⁸ ***(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:*** ¹⁹ ***Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)***

Many are the enemies of the cross. Esau was an enemy of the cross. Nobody wanted to die; nobody likes the cross. When is the last time you have heard a message on the cross on TV? All the materials are about prospering in the world. Paul says, they enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction. Whose God is there? Whose God is there? Isaac’s God is slowly become his stomach. He began with worshipping God, and as he started going older, he started worshipping his stomach.

Genesis 27:1-4

¹ ***And it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his eldest son, and said unto him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, here am I.*** ² ***And he said, Behold now, I am old, I know not the day of my death:*** ³ ***Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me some venison;*** ⁴ ***And make me savoury meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee before I die.***

You are getting it? Years earlier, God had told him, ‘You shall bless the younger.’ And now he is telling the elder, ‘Go, get me some meat, cook it the way I like it, and I will bless you’. Are you seeing this? How now, the word is no longer having authority. This is Isaac.

Verse 1, Scripture says, a time came when he was old and his eyes were dim. Are our eyes dim? We are not talking about physical eyes. Physical blindness is ok. Spiritual blindness is dangerous. Scripture says, “his eyes were dim, and he says, ‘I am old and I don’t have many day. I am going to die. If you give me meat, before I die, I will bless you.’” Did he die? After he ate, and he lives another 42 years. He didn’t die. Because was not his physical eyes, it is his spiritual eyes. When he constantly walked in disobedience to the revealed Word of God, our eyes will grow dimmer and dimmer and we will go blind. Be careful. Turn with me to

Deuteronomy 34:7

⁷ ***Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished.***

Moses was a hundred and twenty years old. Is his are eyes dim? He was going to die that day. And look at verse 9,

Deuteronomy 34:9

⁹ Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the Lord had commanded Moses.

Joshua, the son of Nun, was full of the Spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands upon him. Whom did Moses lay his hands upon? Doesn't Moses have two sons? Did he go and put hands on Gershom? God says, 'Not your sons, it is Joshua.' His eyes were right. He did not go by flesh, 'My son, my son.' He said, "Joshua." Joshua received the anointing. He was not blind. Though he was 120 years, he could still see.

Genesis 48:10

¹⁰ Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, so that he could not see. Then Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them.

Jacob's eyes are dim. He is at least hundred and forty seven years old and *verse 17 and 19*,

Genesis 48:17-18

¹⁷ Now when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; so he took hold of his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. ¹⁸ And Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head".

Are you getting it? He is old. He cannot see and Joseph has brought his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh. Elder one and younger one, and said bless them. But Jacob crossed his hands, and blessed the younger one, not the elder one. Joseph is upset, 'my father, my father, you are getting it wrong.' Jacob says, 'I know, I know. These eyes may be blind, but the other eyes can see better than you.' This is the final lesson to Jacob.

Scripture says the righteous is like trees planted by the river. In their old age, they will bear fruit. If you are walking like Jacob in repentance, till on your last day, God will teach you a lesson. You know what God is telling Jacob? "Jacob, remember that day with your father so many years ago? You put all that skin and all and went like Esau? What I bless, nobody can change. You didn't have to do anything. On that day, Isaac would have called you both. Esau with venison; Jacob with nothing. But when he stretched his hand to bless Esau, I would have seen to it that he crossed his hand and see that you got the blessing." God doesn't need our help. God wants our obedience.

Ask ourselves are we in a ministry of obedience or in a ministry of helping God achieving our plans? God calls us to obedience. We are living at a time when God wants obedient people. *Chapter 27* is a classic Chapter. Everybody disregarding the revealed will of God. Isaac says, 'I will bless you.' Esau says, 'I will get venison and get blessed.' Rebekah hears it and calls Jacob and says, 'Jacob, you quickly bring meat, I will cook it like the way Esau cooks it.' Nobody is asking God, 'What should I do?' These are the only four people on earth whom God can speak to. Only four people! And all four people are walking in deception: Father, wife and two sons - all in deception. Now you understand what God's grace is? Grace says, 'If I have chosen somebody, I will work it through them.' We are not sitting here because we were faithful; we are sitting here because God's plans will come to pass. Isaac is led in the flesh to bless Esau. Rebekah is willing in the flesh to deceive her husband. Jacob is only worried whether I will get a curse by deceiving father. And Esau is willing to deceive God and take the blessing that is meant for his brother.

Jesus warned three times in The Book of Mathew, 'be careful about deception in the last days.' Why didn't Rebekah go to Isaac and say, 'Isaac, you can't do it. My Lord, don't you remember what God told you?' Why didn't Jacob look at his mother say, 'Mom I will not do it. What God has ordained, no man can help it.' Why didn't Esau say, 'Mom, didn't God say the younger one will be blessed and didn't I already sell my birthright to Jacob?' Nobody is standing up for God here. Now you know what happens? Deception comes into the family. It will pass on from generation to generation. It will pass. How terrible it is when parents teach children to deceive. *Verse 13 and 14*,

Genesis 27:13-14

¹³ ***But his mother said to him, “Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me.”*** ¹⁴ ***And he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother made savory food, such as his father loved.***

Mother then tells the son, ‘Obey my voice, not the voice of God.’ Church, Pastors, do we teach our people to obey the voice of the Church or the voice of God? Church does not have a voice other than the voice of God. You should have the courage to teach your people and tell your people, if ever I as the Pastor move away from this, leave the Church. Because you are not here to speak the voice of man, you are here to listen to the voice of God. Rebekah is the Church; Jacob is the congregation member. And Rebekah is telling Jacob, ‘Listen to my voice’. And so many Pastors do that. ‘Pastor, how is it possible, it is written like this.’ ‘Don’t argue listen to me. I am the Pastor.’ Do we do that? That’s what Rebekah is saying. Jacob is saying if I disobey God, a curse will come upon me. Rebekah is saying, ‘doesn’t matter, let it come upon me, you just obey my voice.’ Now the Church wants to help God out. See, God doesn’t want any help. He is looking for hearts in which there is no deceit. ‘No, I don’t want any help. I am only looking for hearts in which there is no deceit’. Gospel according to

John 1:47-48

⁴⁷ ***Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!”*** ⁴⁸ ***Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”***

You know in the Bible the fig tree always stands for Israel. Jesus is walking in Israel. He is looking at one man. Look at that man, in his heart there is no deceit. If God could tell that about us, ‘Look at Pastor John, in his heart there is no deceit.’ Nathanael is shocked. ‘How did you know me?’ ‘I saw you under the fig tree. I saw you in Israel you were one who had no deceit. All Israel is in deceit. What has started with Isaac, it has covered the whole country. And I, as God is looking for an Israelite with no deceit. I saw you with no deceit.’ All Pastors who sit here, our cry should be, ‘Lord, search my heart and find no deceit.’ Rebekah is very old. Some Churches and ministries are very old. ‘Let the curse be upon me!’

Exodus 34:7

⁷ ***keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation.”***

Ephesians 6:1

⁷ ***Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right***

How should you obey your parents? ‘In the Lord.’ For obeying your father and mother should not be rebellion against God.

Ephesians 5:22

²² ***Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.***

Pastor’s wives, when you submit to your Pastoral husband, it should be ‘in the Lord’. Don’t share in his iniquity. Sapphire shared in her husband’s iniquity. First the husband was judged then wife was given a second chance. Most wives submit to their husband’s iniquity. And Pastor Peter said, ‘the ones who carried your husband’s dead body, will carry you also.’

This is a woman who left everybody for Isaac - Rebekah. Just take a look, what a wonderful fairytale! Eleazar had come with the camels, travelling for so long. He knelt down and prayed, ‘Lord, God of my master Abraham, show me Grace show me the woman for his son. He finished praying and here comes Rebekah with her little pot. Oh! she draws some water, and she draws water for the camels. And he asked her, ‘Who are you?’ and she says, ‘This is my father’. Oh! he is so happy and he worshipped God. And he goes to her house and asks, ‘Will you send your daughter? Yes, this is of God, let her stay here for seven days; let us give her a party. Eleazar said, ‘No, I need to go tomorrow.’ He asked them to ask this girl. And they asked the girl, ‘Will you go?’ ‘I am ready to go’. They waited 20 years to have this baby. Now Rebekah is teaching her son to deceive his father. In English, we call it as ‘legacy’. What you leave behind as your contribution. Rebekah had two legacies. She brought forth Jacob and she brought rebellion into the house of Israel. She brought rebellion into the house of Israel. It came from Rebekah. What will be our legacy? Now deceit will work through Israel from that day till the end. And one day a set of Israelites will sit together in the night and in deceit and deception decide that Jesus, the Son of God should be

crucified. Where did it start? It started with Rebekah. And God says, ‘you need to be very careful.’ You and I may start something; we have no idea where it will end.

Numbers 32:23

²³ ***But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the Lord; and be sure your sin will find you out.***

If you have sinned against the Lord, be sure your sin will find you out. You can’t sin against God and not be found out. Blessed is the one who repents and forsakes otherwise it will follow you. It will follow you and it will find you out. Now you are going to have trouble in Isaac’s home. Jacob comes and deceives his father. Isaac asked Jacob, ‘How can you get this venison so fast?’ What is Jacob saying? What does he say? ‘God helped me’. Do we say that? We do deception in our ministries and then say God helped me. How much deception is in ministry today and then we attribute it to God. We are not only walking in deception, now we are attributing deception to God. That God blesses deception. Does God bless deception? We are getting into difficult parts. God is just teaching us, be careful how we walk. *Book of Galatians*, He says, if you sow in the flesh,

Galatians 6:7-8

⁷ ***Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*** ⁸ ***For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*** ⁹ ***And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.***

Our prosperity preachers use this, ‘Sow brother, sow.’ But God says something else. If you sow in the flesh, you will reap in the flesh. If you sow in the Spirit, you will reap in the Spirit. God will not be mocked. Isaac sowed in the flesh, Rebekah sowed in the flesh, Esau sowed in the flesh and Jacob sowed in the flesh. Everybody will get a harvest now in the flesh. You will see nobody repents, except Jacob. Did you ever read in the *Book of Genesis*, Isaac going to God and saying, ‘God, I am sorry, I went against Your Word’ ‘Never. He just dies, a few years later. Nothing after this mentioned about Isaac. Rebekah said, ‘Let the curse be upon me’. A few days later, Jacob is gone. She never sees Jacob again. She dies before Jacob comes back. Esau and his tribe becomes one of the enemies of Israel. All through it is deception. Turn to *Chapter 28*, blessings are gone, Esau crying, in *Chapter 27*, you will see Esau crying. Don’t you have one more blessing to give me?

Genesis 27:33-40

³³ ***Then Isaac trembled exceedingly, and said, “Who? Where is the one who hunted game and brought it to me? I ate all of it before you came, and I have blessed him—and indeed he shall be blessed.”*** ³⁴ ***When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, “Bless me—me also, O my father!”*** ³⁵ ***But he said, “Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing.”*** ³⁶ ***And Esau said, “Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing!”*** ***And he said, “Have you not reserved a blessing for me?”*** ³⁷ ***Then Isaac answered and said to Esau, “Indeed I have made him your master, and all his brethren I have given to him as servants; with grain and wine I have sustained him. What shall I do now for you, my son?”*** ³⁸ ***And Esau said to his father, “Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me—me also, O my father!”*** ***And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.*** ³⁹ ***Then Isaac his father answered and said to him: “Behold, your dwelling shall be of the fatness of the earth, And of the dew of heaven from above.*** ⁴⁰ ***By your sword you shall live, And you shall serve your brother; And it shall come to pass, when you become restless, That you shall break his yoke from your neck.”***

Esau is crying ‘Oh Daddy, only one blessing, only one blessing’. When you search the Book of Hebrews, you will see Isaac blessed by faith. God was blessing through Isaac. You can’t change it. He says, ‘Please, one blessing’. So he says, ‘Ok, I will bless you’. Verse 40, ***‘By your sword you shall live and you shall serve your brother, and it shall come to pass, when you become restless, that you shall break his yoke from your neck’.***

2 Samuel 8:14

¹⁴ ***He also put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom he put garrisons, and all the Edomites became David’s servants. And the Lord preserved David wherever he went.***

Did you see that? What did Isaac say? You will serve your brother. The seed of Jacob! Throughout all of Edom he put garrisons, all the Edomites, children of Esau became David's servants. God has spoken a Word, it will come to pass. It will come to pass. You cannot change it. Nobody can change it.

2 Chronicles 21:8

⁸ ***In his days Edom revolted against Judah's authority, and made a king over themselves.***

Now you see how precise God's Word is. Hundreds and hundreds of years earlier, Isaac is saying, 'you will serve your brother and one day you will become restless and throw away the yoke.' And Jacob's seed, David makes Edomites his servants. And at the time of King Jehoram, he goes and throws the yoke off. The reason here to look at is that when God has spoken something, we better be careful and be sure, it will come to pass. When we will teach our congregation, we need to be very careful to tell them, do not mock the Word of God. Do not mock the Word of God because it will come to pass. And now we will see in

Genesis 27:41-46

⁴¹ ***So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, "The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob."*** ⁴² ***And the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said to him, "Surely your brother Esau comforts himself concerning you by intending to kill you."*** ⁴³ ***Now therefore, my son, obey my voice: arise, flee to my brother Laban in Haran.*** ⁴⁴ ***And stay with him a few days, until your brother's fury turns away,*** ⁴⁵ ***until your brother's anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him; then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereaved also of you both in one day?"*** ⁴⁶ ***And Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth; if Jacob takes a wife of the daughters of Heth, like these who are the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?"***

Is Esau repentant about losing the blessing? Is Cain repentant about killing Abel? That's what God is looking for. God is only looking for repentance. Our Churches are full of angry people. Nobody will say it is my fault. Esau will never go to God and say, 'I am so sorry I messed up. I should have sought you, but I didn't seek you. My brother sought you. Please bless me.' He never says that. That's all God is looking for. I am responsible for my mess. Not my father, not my mother, not my wife, not my children, I am. God says, 'You are set free'. That's all it takes. But man will not say it. They sit in the Churches, year after year and get more and more and more angry because somebody else is blessed. That's why God comes and asks Cain, 'Why are you angry? If you right, won't you also be accepted?' Why are you upset that your brother's sacrifice is being accepted? God is probably asking Esau, 'Why are you angry? What did Jacob do wrong? He sought Me, you never sought Me. If you had sought Me, I would have blessed you too'. Now you see how people get angry. Now for years, Esau is trying to kill Jacob. Verse 46,

Genesis 27:46

⁴⁶ ***And Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth; if Jacob takes a wife of the daughters of Heth, like these who are the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?"***

Is that true? That's not true. Jacob is now 60 years old. Why were you not worried about his marriage all these days? Now suddenly you are worried about his marriage. Because you can't go tell your husband, "You know what, I used Jacob to deceive you and now Esau is planning to kill him, so let him run now; instead saying, 'Oh I am so worried, my son will marry a gentile, so let him go my brother's house.'" Just like anybody's life. Deception, another deception, another lie, another lie, by that time, it's too complicated. Nobody is willing to stand up and say, I sinned. And what is he saying?

Genesis 28:1

¹ ***Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and charged him, and said to him: "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan."*** ² ***Arise, go to Padan Aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father; and take yourself a wife from there of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother.***

Are you getting the picture? How old are you Jacob now? 60 years. Esau is already married and has children. Isaac, you forgot about your father? At the age of 40, didn't he send his servant and said, 'My son will never go back, the girl will come here.' Remember about the covenant your father made? Now you are sending your son back to that land. You're

breaking the covenant. You're going further and further and further away from God's Word. Are you seeing it? This is what happens to Churches. They take a step away from the Word, and they take another step away from the Word, and another step away from the Word, suddenly, the Jesus we preach does not look like the Jesus in the Bible at all. Now Jacob is running, Jacob is running. The father and mother are discussing, 'You know what, O' Jacob will marry from one of these unbelievers'. Actual reason is something else. Esau hears that. 'Oh, my parents don't like my wives.' Come further down.

Genesis 28:8

⁸ ***Also Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan did not please his father Isaac. ⁹ So Esau went to Ishmael and took Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife in addition to the wives he had.***

Now he has two wives from earlier. 'Oh my brother is going to marry a wife from the family. Let me look around is there any girl from the family around? I want to please my father. So he went and married Ishmael's daughter. Now he has three wives. All these are deceptions. Nobody is telling the real reason. Do you know what Isaac has brought into the house? Are you seeing it? God is warning us, what can happen, as parents, as Pastors, how we can mess up every thing? Let's go further,

Genesis 28:10-11

¹⁰ ***Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹ So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set.***

Mark that place in your Bibles. What does it say? The sun has set. Next time it will be written in the Bible that the sun rises over Jacob, it will be 20 years. For God to raise the light above Jacob, it took 20 years. But God has already said, 'Jacob I loved, Esau I hated'. Jacob is running in his sin, but God is still working His plan through him. But he will suffer the consequences of his sin. He reaches a place called Bethel. And he takes a stone. That means he doesn't even have a bag to put under his head. Only thing he has is a stick. 20 years later, he will say, with a staff I went to Haran and came with family and stocks and herds. These are no accidents. It is a stone lying over there. And he must have taken that stone. And must have put his head on it. Then, he has a dream and a ladder was set upon the earth. You know what I believe? I believe that place was Bethel where Abraham had made an altar. And one of those stones was lying over there. When he put his head over there, he saw a vision 'a ladder is put up to heaven.' Turn with me to

Numbers 23:21

²¹ ***He has not observed iniquity in Jacob, Nor has He seen wickedness in Israel. The Lord his God is with him, And the shout of a King is among them.***

This is a strange place. This is Balaam, speaking over Israel. 'I have not observed iniquity in Jacob, nor has he seen wickedness in Israel'. He is lying at Bethel, with just a stone under his head and he sees heaven open. And there's a ladder all the way up to heaven. Angels are climbing up and down. You know what God is seeing? God is seeing Jesus in Jacob. And angels are going up and down, ministering to Jesus who is in Jacob. And I see no iniquity or transgression in Jesus. I observe no wickedness in Israel. Because I see how this man is going to finish. He will finish in Jesus as an over comer. I will deal with him as he is. That's why God says, 'Jacob I love, and Esau I hated.' And Jacob is running! We all know these stories well.

Jacob came to his father, he put all the skins his mother put, and his father couldn't see well, and he told his father, 'I am Esau, the elder one.' Now he goes to Haran, he reaches the place, years ago, where Eleazer had reached. And you looks at this brethren and says, 'you said you are in Haran, do you know Laban?' They said, 'Yes, Laban is here. There, his daughter Rachel is coming.' All young people like this story. How Jacob meets Rachel. How they fall in love. But he has to work fourteen years to get Rachel. Why? Because he told his father, 'I am Esau'; he is not Jacob, he is Esau. Esau is a servant. Esau will serve 14 years, even for his wife. Isaac didn't have to work one day to get Rebekah. Jacob had to work 14 years to get Rachel. Seven years later, it is his wedding day. And the father-in-law gets him drunk. Morning he wakes up, and looks, it's not Rachel, it's Leah. He made his father drunk in his blindness; he used his father's blindness, and said, 'I am the elder'. His father-in-law made him drunk, when he couldn't see, gave the elder as the younger. God says, "what you sow, you will reap, what you sow, you will reap. It will follow you." He said, 'My father, feel me, feel me, I am Esau'. His mother had taken the skins of animals to deceive him. Years later, his own son comes, he's killed an animal, put blood on Joseph's coat, and

says, 'Here Father, this is your son's coat, your son is dead.' That day what he sowed, he reaped. God says, 'what you sow you will reap. God will not be mocked.' Please remember this.

Rebekah taught and brought rebellion into the home. Jacob loved Rachel. And when Jacob is running from Laban's house, his beloved wife has carried the idols of her father. Now she has brought idolatry into the family. Laban is coming and saying, 'Who took my household idols?' Rachel comes and sits and she says, 'Father, please don't ask me to get up. I am having my monthly periods.' Deception knocking. Is it not passed down? Jacob said 'whoever is found with the idols will die'. Laban goes, idols are not found. A little later, she is in labor, Rachel dies, because God will not be mocked. You sow in the flesh; you will reap in the flesh. Jacob, did he not work for this woman for fourteen years? Did he not open his mouth and say, 'Who ever is found with the idols will die?' She will die, because you spoke, you are the head of the house. You spoke, it will happen. God will not be mocked. He says to his wives, 'Your father has deceived me 10 times.' Jacob, did you deceive your father? Your father-in-law has deceived you. 10 times he changed my wages. "Because God will not be mocked." What you sow, you will reap.

These are lessons we teach our Churches, lessons we teach our people. Repent, get saved and walk free with God. God will not be mocked. They say, the mill of God grinds slowly, but grinds very fine. By the time it is finished, we will be powdered. So, be very careful. God may be delayed in His justice. God will not deny His justice. *If any man says he is without sin, he makes God a liar. But if any man confesses, he is faithful to cleanse you of all your iniquities.* Teach our Churches to walk in repentance, to leave sin because judgment is very close, very close.

And Jacob is now serving 20 years with Laban. On another side, Esau is prospering and prospering and prospering. He is a big man now. 'Why is Esau prospering?' "Didn't you say 'you were Esau'?" So when you became Esau, what did Esau become? So, he became Jacob. So, he is getting all the blessings and he is prospering. Esau is prospering and prospering and prospering; Jacob with the double portion is running in fear and walking in curse. 20 years are over. He says, 'I cannot, I need to go home.' He leaves, full of fear, can't go back. Laban will kill me. Can't go forward, Esau is coming with 400 men. Where can I go? Fear. He sends camels, he sends sheep, and he sends everything for Esau. Then he tells the servants, if you meet Esau, and Esau says, what is this? Tell this, 'My Lord Esau, this has been sent by your servant Jacob.' What happened to God's promises? The elder shall serve the younger. You're the elder right? You said you are Esau and he is Jacob the younger right? Can you see you are serving him now in fear? He sends them all away and then he crosses the river. The Jabbok River and then Jesus appears. And Jesus contends with Jacob. 'I've got a plan with you. If you go on like this, how will I come from you? I have loved you, but I have to break you'. And he says, 'Lord, unless you bless me' *Book of Proverbs*, when God blesses somebody,

Proverbs 10:22

²³ ***The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it.***

Know this, this is Scripture. When God blesses somebody, he adds no sorrow. This was not God's blessing for 20 years. This was the blessing of deception - full of sorrow, full of trouble and full of fear. But when Isaac was blessed, no trouble, no sorrow, even the enemies came and said, 'you are too big.' Wherever he digs wells, he sows in wilderness, he reaps a harvest. When God blesses somebody, he adds no sorrow. Jacob is full of sorrow. 13 children, full of flocks and herds, rich beyond means, full of sorrow, full of fear. And he says, 'Lord, bless me.' What do you want? He is saying, 'I want blessing without sorrow. I want blessing without sorrow. All these blessing had only brought sorrow into my life. I want blessing without sorrow.'

Now you need to know something: - only a higher authority can break something that has been pronounced by somebody. He told Isaac, I am Esau. Whom did he tell? He told Isaac. Who is Isaac? His father. Not only is his father, Isaac is God's representative on earth 'The only believing patriarch in the whole world.' What Isaac has spoken nobody can break, Pastor, Prophet, Apostle, Kings, nobody is there. In God's sight, Isaac is at the top. If anybody can break, only God can break. So, God steps down and says, Jacob I will break it for you. So Jesus himself comes, and he says, 'Lord Bless me'. He says, 'What is your name?' What does he say? 'My name is Jacob.' "Twenty years ago, you told your father, your name is Esau. Twenty years it took for you to tell the truth, 'I am Jacob'. I will lose you from the curse that came upon you on that day. From today, you will be known as *Israel*. I change your name and I change your destiny. You will be known as *Israel*." And you know what? Jacob's thighbone is dislocated. That is our strongest bone. Jacob loved God, but he ran in his strength. God

said, 'I want to dislocate you. Now you will love Me, you will walk in My strength.' The previous night, in fear, he had put everybody in front of him and he had crossed the river. Whole night he had contended with God. Now he has overcome and Scripture says, he named the place, 'Peniel' – I have seen the face of God. If you go back and read, the *Book of Genesis*, I want to look at one particular line over there,

Genesis 32:30-31

³⁰ ***Just as he crossed over Peniel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip. ³¹ Therefore to this day the children of Israel do not eat the muscle that shrank, which is on the hip socket, because He touched the socket of Jacob's hip in the muscle that shrank.***

What is it written there? Just as he crossed Peniel, the sun rose on him, twenty years later. Twenty years ago, it was written, the sunset on him. Twenty years later, it is written, the sun rose on him. This is Israel's history.

Malachi 4:2

² ***But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves.***

Those who reverse my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in His wings. Sun of righteousness is rising over Jacob. He is now Israel; he has been healed of his past sins. And go back to that portion, the next verse, what does it say?

Genesis 33:1-3

¹ ***Now Jacob lifted his eyes and looked, and there, Esau was coming, and with him were four hundred men. So he divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and the two maidservants. ² And he put the maidservants and their children in front, Leah and her children behind, and Rachel and Joseph last. ³ Then he crossed over before them and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.***

The previous night, he put everybody in the front and he was at the back. He was strong in the flesh, but weak in the Spirit. In the night he contends with God, he is an over comer. God has changed him. But now he is weak in the flesh, he is limping, but he has got healing. Now he is running ahead to meet Esau because there is no fear.

When you have met God face to face, and He has dealt with your past, there is no fear. You will go run ahead. Because you know God is going ahead of you.

Previous day Esau is coming with four hundred men. Would you go to meet your brother with four hundred men, if your intentions are not right? He is coming, payback time. But in the night God intervened in Jacob's life. God intervened in Esau's life. God says, 'if you walk with Me, I will make even your enemies live in peace with you'. That is why, Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him and fell on his knees and kissed him and wept. This is *Jacob* and this has become *Israel*. There is nothing to fear.

Twenty years he lost with Laban, because he deceived his father. Another twenty years he lost, he thinks Joseph is dead, because he deceived his father. Altogether, he lost forty years. How many years will we lose because we refuse to acknowledge our deception before God? Our God is a God who is always at Jabbok to meet us. He always says, 'I want to change your name, from Jacob to Israel. Prince with God, prince with man! Called to overcome, called to rule. Not to walk in defeat'. This is true for everybody sitting here. We are not called to be '*Jacob*'; we are called to be '*Israel*'. Prince with God, prince with man! But you and I have to deal with deception in our hearts, we have to meet Jesus at river Jabbok. And we will tell Jesus, 'Unless you bless me, I will not let You go.' Amen!