

Remnant Life Church  
May 9, 2021  
**Rebekah – Standing in the Gap**  
Mother's Day  
Genesis 27:1-17

- Things my mother taught me:

WEATHER: "It looks like a tornado swept through your room."

ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY: When responding to a very legitimate question I had just asked - "Because I said so, that's why."

IRONY: "You keep on laughing, and I'll give you something to cry about." That one always sent me back to my room in contemplative silence.

ENDURANCE: "You'll sit there 'til all that spinach is off your plate." This also helped to teach me to be creative.

MEDICINE: When I would make one of my many regular attempts to stay home from school (upset stomach being the preferred excuse since it required very few visible symptoms other than a well-placed moan or two, a weakened voice, and a pained facial expression) she would say, "Go splash some cold water on your face and by the time you get to school you will feel better."

SPIRITUAL: (after I have spilled something for the 100<sup>th</sup> time) "You better pray that stain comes out of that carpet."

- Well, the roots of Mother's Day are found at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in 1908 in Grafton, WV
  - Ana Jarvis held a memorial at her church for her mother, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in May, the third anniversary of the day her mother died
  - Ana's mother was a kind and caring person, a peace activist, who cared for wounded soldiers of the Civil War from both sides
  - Ana's efforts were rewarded; first in Philadelphia the following years (sponsored by Wanamaker's); with several states adopting the tradition in 1910
  - 1914 – Pres. Woodrow Wilson signed legislation that made mother's day a national holiday
  - Today virtually every country in the world recognizes some type of Mother's Day
- Since it is always on a Sunday, pastor's find themselves facing the question of what can I say that has not been said countless times before?
  - Sarah; Mary; Elizabeth; Hannah; Eve, etc...
  - This morning someone a little different

Backdrop of the story

- In **Gen 24** Eliezer, Abraham's chief servant is sent to find his son, Isaac, a wife
- Eliezer was a very important part of Abraham's family – an overseer of his house; like Joseph was for Potiphar
  - What we get to witness is the hand of God moving in the life of a praying man
    - Eliezar prayed first, not after, he was out searching on his own (**v 12**)
  - Because of His prayer and God's plan – Rebekah appears (**v 15**)
  - She and Isaac will have two sons named Esau and Jacob (**vv 24-26**)
  - Jacob will go on to have his name changed by God to Israel (**32:28**)
  - His 12 sons would become the nation that bears their father's name (**35:23-26**)

But Isaac and Rebekah utilized a very dangerous parenting technique as they raised their two sons – favorites

- Isaac favored Esau; and Rebekah favored Jacob (**25:28**)
- This would play an important part in their children's lives (but not in a positive way)

### **READ – Genesis 27:1-17**

- We are all used to these mother's and father's days stories being about the great strength, virtue, and character of the individual
- Rebekah was a very loving and caring mother, but she was also a deceitful mother
  - She connives a plan to ensure that her favorite son, Jacob, receives the family blessing which would make him the leader of the family
  - But in order for that to happen, it begins by Esau not honoring his birthright (**READ – Gen 25:29-34**)
    - Esau sold his birthright to Jacob
    - For gold, power, land?
    - No, for a bowl of lentil stew and some bread
- Once that has taken place, Rebekah steps in and lays out the plan for the blessing to be bestowed on Jacob by Isaac

What can we learn from this story?

1. First, God never condones deceit or lying in any way
  - a. Rebekah manipulated the situation in order to get what she wanted even though God had already told her what would happen (**25:23**)
  - b. This is not faith, yet many Christians live their lives this way
    - a. God does not need your help!
    - b. What He wants is our trust, our faith, and to live a life of honor according to His Word
    - c. Manipulating others is not honoring to God because it is an act done purely out of selfishness
    - d. By the way, do know what the root of manipulation is? witchcraft -
  - c. Jacob had to pay a steep price for his mother's deception
    - a. Because he willingly participated
    - b. He verbally lied to his father 3 times – (**vv 19, 20, 24**)

- c. Jacob fled from his brother when his deceit had been discovered and he spent the next 20 years away from home
- d. One other thing that happen to Jacob that must also be understood
  - i. He had to spend 14 years working to get his wife; after he was given her sister (Rachel and Leah)
  - ii. Those who live in deceit and sin almost always become victims of it themselves

There are always consequences to our actions when we live in or embrace sin

- o Rebekah's consequence was that she never got to see her favorite son again after he was forced to run away from Esau

2. But someone had to pay the price

- a. In this case Rebekah said she would take the curse for the sin they were knowingly entering into (27:13)

What truth do we see in this account:

The plan of redemption was put in place and activated so that the sin of man, which separates each and every one of us from God, could be reversed. But someone had to pay the price for sin.

- We are witness here, in the account of Rebekah and Jacob, to the unfolding of that plan.
- This is the first time we see the concept of *substitutionism* demonstrated (one taking the place of another)
- But it is not the last and it all leads to the reason why everyone of us here this morning have a hope for the future.

Other examples in the Bible of substitutionism:

Judah for Benjamin – two of Jacob's 12 sons – the oldest and the youngest  
 - (Gen 43:9) - *I myself will guarantee his safety; you can hold me personally responsible for him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him here before you, I will bear the blame before you all my life.*

- Judah quick to offer himself as a sacrifice
- Judah was the ancestral line of Jesus

Abigail for Nabal – (I Sam 25:24 RSV) - *She fell at his feet and said, "Upon me alone, my lord, be the guilt; pray let your handmaid speak in your ears, and hear the words of your handmaid.*

- Her words to David spared Nabal's life even though he was a "fool"
- After her husband died, Abigail went on to become the wife of David and the mother of Daniel, the second son of David

(Not always in a positive situation)

The people during the trial of Jesus (Matt 27:25) - *All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!"*

- In order to see Jesus die the people were willing to take the curse of a wrongful death on themselves and their children (Deut 19)

Jesus for Every one of us – (Gal 3:11-13) - *Now it is evident that no man is justified before God by the law; for “He who through faith is righteous shall live”; but the law does not rest on faith, for “He who does them shall live by them.” Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us...*

3. Rebekah was a loving mother who wanted the best for her son
  - She was willing to do anything to make that happen even taking the curse or penalty for her actions.
  - That is a great demonstration of love, but it is misguided in its actions
4. As we honor our mothers today and remember all that they have done for us, let it also serve as a reminder of what Jesus did for each of us
5. When we do, let it cause us to stop before we speak, stop before we act, stop before we lash out and be grateful that He took the penalty, took the curse for our sin.