

Remnant Life Church
May 10, 2015
Rebekah – Taking the Heat
Mother's Day
Genesis 27:1-17

- Things my mother taught me:

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

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

FORESIGHT: "Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident." Apparently your pants are destroyed even in a fender-bender.

IRONY: "You keep laughing, and I'll give you something to cry about." That 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.

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

THE CIRCLE OF LIFE: "I brought you into this world, I can take you out and make another that looks just like you."

NEEDS OF OTHERS: "You know there are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have a caring, loving, wonderful Mother like you do!"

I would then many times want to help those poor children by saying we could offer her services to them. I often didn't remember much after saying that.

- Roots of Mother's Day are found at the turn of the 20th century in 1908 in Grafton, WV
 - Ana Jarvis held a memorial at her church for her mother, on the 2nd 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); several states adopting the tradition in 1910
 - 1914 – Pres. Woodrow Wilson signed legislation making it 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 what can I say that has not been said countless times before?
 - Sarah; Mary; Elizabeth; Hannah; Eve
 - This morning someone a little different
 - Abraham (**Gen 24**) sends Eliezer, his chief servant to find Isaac a wife (overseer of his house; like Joseph for Potiphar)
 - We witness the hand of God in the life of a praying man – he prayer first not after he searched on his own (**v 12**)
 - God brings Rebekah (**v 15**)
 - She and Isaac have two sons 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**)
 - Isaac and Rebekah instituted a dangerous parenting technique – favorites
 - Isaac favored Esau; and Rebekah favored Jacob (**25:28**)
 - This would play an important part of their children's lives (not all good)
 - **READ – Genesis 27:1-17**
 - Rebekah is a loving mother, a caring mother, but she is also a deceitful mother
 - She connives a plan to make sure that her favorite son receives the blessing
 - What ultimately happened was begun by Esau not honoring his birthright (**25:29-34**)
 - What can we learn from this story?
1. 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
 - God does not need our help!
 - What he asks for is our trust, our faith, and to live a life of honor according to the Word
 - Manipulating others is not honoring to God because it is an act done purely out of selfishness
 - c. Jacob had to pay a steep price for his mother's deception
 - Jacob also participated
 - He verbally lied to his father 3 times – (**vv 19, 20, 24**)
 - Jacob fled when his brother found out and spent the next 20 years away from home
 - He had to spend 14 years working to get his wife; after he was given her sister (Rachel and Leah)
 - Those who live in deceit and sin almost always become victims of it themselves
 - d. There is always consequence to our actions when we live in or embrace sin

2. Someone has to take the heat
 - a. In this case Rebekah said she would take the curse for the sin they were knowingly entering into (27:13)
 - b. THEME – 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. We are witness here, in the account of Rebekah and Isaac, to the first unfolding of that plan.
 - This is the first time we see the concept of substitutionism demonstrated but not the last and it all leads to the reason we have hope.
 - Judah for Benjamin – (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.*
 - Joseph (Zaphenath-Paneah)
 - 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 spared Nabal's life even though he was a "fool"
 - 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—for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who hangs on a tree"*
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 misguided in its actions
 - Jesus demonstrated the love of God for each of us by taking the sin penalty not for one man but for all mankind
4. As we honor our mothers today and remember all that they have done for us let it remind us of what Jesus did for 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.