

In today's reading, we're revisiting Isaac again. And in last week's reading and this week's reading, we're finding out that Isaac's family's pretty terrible to him. Last week they tried to kill him. This week his wife and his children are playing tricks on him and would make us believe that emotionally we should be feeling sorry for Isaac. The way we read the story today is that this is a terrible thing, that it's meant, Jacob is being, I can't think of a good word I'd want to say up here. He's not being very good to his dad. He's very, very deceitful. And we can see how that would be. But back when this was written, back when this story was originally told, we're meant to be happy that this is happening. We're meant to identify with Jacob and we're meant to believe that this is actually a wonderful thing. And it's hard to see that, right? It's hard for us to put ourselves in that perspective. It's a good thing that he's being deceitful. That's not how we see things today. Two different worlds we live in.

A lot of people believe that twins are the same person. They are not. They're very clearly not. If you know any, we know a couple, and the point of the story, if you remember, Esau and Jacob are twins. But they are so completely polar opposite from each other. So, Rebecca while she's pregnant with the two of them is told by God not to worry. Even though the sons will be separate, the sons will be different. They'll still be okay when they come out.

Esau, remember, is huge. He's enormous. He's covered in hair. He's healthy. He's strong, just blowing stuff up right off the beginning. And Jacob in contrast, is small and he is sickly, and he needs a lot of help. He needs a lot of attention. So Rebecca is concerned that he's not going to make it on his own.

Isaac is talking to Esau, telling him that is going to give him his blessing. The word for blessing is also the same as birthright. So, we see another parallel between Isaac and Jesus because Isaac is asking for his last supper. He's coming, he's expecting to die right after this. He wants to give his blessing and move everything on. Rebecca hears this and thinks, well, I know Esau can take care of himself. He can have everything ripped away from him, and he'll be fine. But Jacob, on the other hand, needs a lot more help. So, she thinks that she's doing the right thing.

She thinks she's doing the right thing in tricking Isaac. She thinks that she's helping her son. She thinks that she's doing these things, and we're supposed to be okay with that because we want a root for the underdog. We want a root for the one who's not as strong and powerful as the other one. And it's okay. God tells Rebecca that the elder shall serve the younger. She's interpreting that message as saying that it's okay for her to do this because God has already said Esau shall serve Jacob.

She's helping it, which is being a part of the solution. It's hard to picture that from our world today. If Esau is supposed to be this wonderful person, he's supposed to have all of these things given to him. And she is stealing from him and Jacob's being a part of this. He's not innocent in this, even though they're doing what they think is right, because it's God's will. And it's the right reason to do so. It doesn't mean that Esau sees it that way because he's just lost everything. He has nothing. And now he has to help his younger brother, not just help him, but serve him.

That's hard. And what's worse is that we see God's okay with it? God's okay with this happening. He's not punishing Rebecca. He doesn't punish Jacob for this behavior. In fact, He gives Jacob a dream telling him that he's going to be with him forever. That he will be there to

protect him this whole time he's on Earth, And then when they ascend into heaven, he'll still be there for Jacob. Why is that? Why would God be okay with this?

It's hard. What about in our lives when things seem so hard for us and so easy for others? Do we still think that God is with us? Do we still think that he is going to be there protecting us? Doesn't it seem like he's more with everybody else? So, why are we downplayed? Well, we aren't. God doesn't see the world like that. God doesn't see the Earthly materials. What he sees is our spirit. He sees who we are and is concerned more about the next place, not now.

God's time isn't our time. God can see everything, know everything, but they don't know which part we're going to do. We still have the choice to make our own decisions. We choose to be a part of things. We choose to interpret what they say, in a way that most benefits us. And sometimes we interpret it as a way that doesn't benefit us at all.

God doesn't worry about the Earthly part of it. It is the spiritual. It is the everlasting life after this world. That's what's important. They'll protect us and make sure that we get there. You'll make sure that we aren't hurt and injured as much as could possibly happen. Their love is protecting us at all times and not meant to be a detriment to us. We might not agree with what everyone else says. We might not agree with how things happen. We might not agree that the outcome is beneficial. God doesn't worry about that. God worries about the next step: that we will all be taken care of. And the next life, the pain, and the suffering that we endure here isn't going to matter there. There is no difference. There's no man or woman. There's no freed or slave in the next life. We are simply one. And that's God's concern that we can set aside our differences because the Earthly problems are the Earthly problems. And the more that we focus on them here, doesn't matter. It's the next step when we can set all of those aside and simply love each other and love God as they intended. Let us pray.