

ISAAC: FAITH OVERCOMING

“The Will of the Flesh”

SCRIPTURE (READ)

Genesis 25:21-34; Hebrews 11:17-20; 1 John 5:4

DISCUSSION (25 min.)

Esau was the firstborn of Isaac. However, the choice of blessing was Jacob, the younger. Esau forsook and despised his own birthright. “God’s choice was made, God’s will had been made known and heard. The tears of Esau could not alter it. The fears of Isaac could not change it. The trick of Rebekah could not forfeit it. The treachery of Jacob could not affect it.”¹ Isaac heard the word of the Lord and denied the will of his flesh. He greatly loved Esau and felt should have received the blessing as the firstborn, but he followed by faith.

❖ What does it mean to be “blessed” to you?²

- ✓ **Have you felt that others are more blessed than you are? If so, explain.**
- ✓ **How does God choose who or what to bless?**

❖ Why was it an act of faith for Isaac to bless Jacob rather than Esau?

- ✓ **Share a time when God made one thing clear to you before, but your preferences or expectations were much different. How did you respond? What was the outcome?**

¹ E.W. Bullinger. *Great Cloud of Witnesses in Hebrews Eleven*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregal, 1979), 195.

² Refer to a *Strong’s Concordance* for further study, **G2127**; See Exodus 33:19, Ephesians 1:3.

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- ❖ **What did Esau do that only confirmed God’s choice of blessing?**
 - ✓ **What is the relationship between our preferences and our flesh? How do these preferences interfere with God’s plan for your life?**
 - ✓ **How do you see God work through the “will of the flesh” to accomplish His own will?**

CONCLUSION (5-10 min.)

Isaac did not give in to the will of his flesh. Instead, he trusted in the choice of God. He did not allow his preferences to overcome his faith. “It is not to be what we like, or what we prefer. The tastes of nature are no guide in the spiritual things. Indeed they will most certainly lead us astray if they are followed and obeyed.”³ Isaac believed that the “things to come” were much greater!

- Praises | Requests | Conversational Prayer

³ E.W. Bullinger. *Great Cloud of Witnesses in Hebrews Eleven*, 197.