

**Genesis 25:29-34; 27:1-4, 18-29, 38-40 (ESV)**

<sup>29</sup>Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted. <sup>30</sup>And Esau said to Jacob, “Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!” (Therefore his name was called Edom.)<sup>31</sup> Jacob said, “Sell me your birthright now.” <sup>32</sup>Esau said, “I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?” <sup>33</sup>Jacob said, “Swear to me now.” So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. <sup>34</sup>Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

<sup>27</sup> When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called Esau his older son and said to him, “My son”; and he answered, “Here I am.” <sup>2</sup>He said, “Behold, I am old; I do not know the day of my death. <sup>3</sup>Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me, <sup>4</sup>and prepare for me delicious food, such as I love, and bring it to me so that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die.”

<sup>18</sup> So [Jacob] went in to his father and said, “My father.” And he said, “Here I am. Who are you, my son?” <sup>19</sup>Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me.” <sup>20</sup>But Isaac said to his son, “How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?” He answered, “Because the LORD your God granted me success.” <sup>21</sup>Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not.” <sup>22</sup>So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, who felt him and said, “The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.” <sup>23</sup>And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands. So he blessed him. <sup>24</sup>He said, “Are you really my son Esau?” He answered, “I am.” <sup>25</sup>Then he said, “Bring it near to me, that I may eat of my son's game and bless you.” So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank.

<sup>26</sup>Then his father Isaac said to him, “Come near and kiss me, my son.”<sup>27</sup> So he came near and kissed him. And Isaac smelled the smell of his garments and blessed him and said,

“See, the smell of my son  
is as the smell of a field that the LORD has blessed!

<sup>28</sup>May God give you of the dew of heaven  
and of the fatness of the earth  
and plenty of grain and wine.

<sup>29</sup>Let peoples serve you,  
and nations bow down to you.

Be lord over your brothers,  
and may your mother's sons bow down to you.

Cursed be everyone who curses you,  
and blessed be everyone who blesses you!”

<sup>38</sup>Esau said to his father, “Have you but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father.” And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

<sup>39</sup>Then Isaac his father answered and said to him:

“Behold, away from the fatness of the earth shall your dwelling be,  
and away from the dew of heaven on high.

<sup>40</sup>By your sword you shall live,  
and you shall serve your brother;  
but when you grow restless  
you shall break his yoke from your neck.”

1. How are Isaac's love for food (27:4,9) and Esau's love for food (25:29-34) similar?
2. Is Rebekah an ideal mother? Why or why not?
3. What senses did blind old Isaac use to determine whether it was truly Esau? Why does it matter?
4. Verses 28-29 comprise the blessing. Put them in your own words. Verse 37 may help.
5. How are Esau's losses of the birthright and the blessing the same? How are those losses different?
6. Would you want your family to be like this biblical family? Why or why not?
7. Describe in your own words the importance of the father's blessing. (Compare Genesis 49).