

Sermon Summary | Sunday 16th August 2026 | Rebekah

Genesis 27 is a story about blessing. That may not be a word we use every day, but the longing underneath it is very familiar: to be chosen, loved, approved, secure, and given a future.

By this point in Genesis, a great deal has happened. God has given Abraham and Sarah the promised son, Isaac. Rebekah has entered the family of promise. Like Sarah before her, she has known barrenness and waiting. Then, while pregnant with twins, she heard God's word: *"the older shall serve the younger."* Jacob, not Esau, would carry the promise.

But Genesis 27 shows a household divided over that blessing. Isaac loves Esau. Rebekah loves Jacob. Isaac, old and blind, privately prepares to bless Esau. Rebekah overhears and acts quickly. She knows what God has said, and she wants the right blessing to go to the right son. But she tries to secure God's promise by deceit.

That is the heart of her sin. Rebekah trusts the promise enough to want the blessing, but not enough to leave it in God's hands.

The story searches us because we too can want the right thing and pursue it in the wrong way. We may long for security, recognition, influence, peace at home, a good future for our children, or the right outcome in church, work, or family life. But fear can lead us into pressure, secrecy, manipulation, avoidance, or bending the truth. We tell ourselves we are only trying to make sure the right thing happens. But God's blessing cannot be secured by methods that deny God's character.

Rebekah's temptation may be especially recognisable to anyone who feels they carry the emotional burden of a family or situation: seeing what is wrong, fearing what may happen, and feeling that if they do not act, no one will. Sometimes we really do see danger. Sometimes others really are failing to act wisely. But seeing a real danger does not justify a false way of dealing with it.

Jacob is not innocent either. His concern is not that deception is wrong, but that he may be caught and cursed. Rebekah replies, *"Let your curse be on me, my son."* The plan works, but it does not heal the family. Jacob receives the blessing, but Esau is devastated, Isaac is deceived, Jacob has to flee, and Rebekah loses the son she loves.

Genesis shows us that sin often promises blessing without cost. But it leaves wounds behind. You can get the outcome and lose trust. You can win the argument and damage the relationship. You can secure the future and harden your heart.

Yet God's purpose is not defeated. That does not excuse the deceit. It means God is faithful even when his people are not.

Rebekah's words point beyond themselves. She cannot truly carry the curse in a way that heals the family. But Jesus Christ can. He is the true Son who does not grasp blessing by deceit, but lives in perfect trust and obedience. At the cross, he bears the curse for sinners, so that the blessing we could never secure by grasping is given to us by grace.

That is a wonderfully freeing truth. We do not have to secure God's blessing by managing every outcome, controlling every person, hiding the truth, or presenting a false self. In Christ, the Father's blessing is not fragile. It is not won by rivalry or maintained by deceit. It is received by grace.

So stop grasping for what only God can give. Bring him your longing, fear, control, family wounds, deceit, and shame. In Christ, sinners receive the blessing they could never grasp for themselves.

Questions for personal reflection

1. Where am I tempted to grasp for blessing — approval, security, control, recognition, or a future — rather than receiving what God gives by grace?
2. Where might God be calling me to truthfulness and trust, rather than secrecy, pressure, avoidance, or control?