

The Folly of Trying to Redirect God's Blessing

Genesis 27:1-40

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Introduction:

Last week, we came to the well-known passage in Genesis where Jacob deceives his father Isaac in his ridiculous effort to get the blessing that God had already appointed for him—it is the story that is given to us primarily in Genesis 27.

- There are a lot of ridiculous things that go on in this chapter.
 - There is a father and a mother and two sons involved, and not one of them stands out as a worthy example...not one of them.
 - We are given clear proof here that God blesses the ungodly—He blesses us even though (as Jacob later puts it), we are not worthy of the least of His blessings.
 - If blessing depended on our own goodness, not one of us would be blessed.

I am not going to attempt to review what we looked at last week, other than to say that Esau reflected the character of those who do not care about God's blessing in that he married women who were among the nations that God had cursed...

- And Jacob, though not for entirely noble reasons, went to find a wife that was not from among the nations that God had cursed.
- In this way he showed what those who care about God's blessing do—that they marry only in the Lord—they join themselves to what God has blessed.
 - It is not about nationality per se, but it is about marrying those who are trusting in Jesus to obtain blessing in His kingdom with His people.
 - You can listen to the sermon if you want to know more because I haven't time to go into a detailed review...
 - And I want to focus on our subject for today from this chapter that is so full of wonderful instruction for us.

Today, we are going to look at the folly of Isaac in trying to redirect God's blessing from his son Jacob to his son Esau.

- Rather than trying to look at Jacob and Rebekah and Esau today, I want to focus on this particular theme related to Isaac.
 - We will consider other lessons pertaining to Jacob and Rebekah and Esau in future sermons.
 - You may have noticed that I have been striving to keep the focus on one theme so that we can go away with a clear message from the Lord that we can apply.
- So again, today's theme from this account is the folly of trying to redirect God's blessing to wherever *we* want it to go...the way Isaac does.

And now I will once again read this account to you.

- I will begin this week in Genesis 27, verse 1 and read through verse 40.
- Please give your attention to the word of God.

Genesis 27:1-40: Now it came to pass, when Isaac was old and his eyes were so dim that he could not see, that he called Esau his older son and said to him, "My son." And he answered him, "Here I am." ² Then he said, "Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death. ³ Now therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me. ⁴ And make me savory food, such as I love, and bring *it* to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die." ⁵ Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt game and to bring *it*. ⁶ So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, "Indeed I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying, ⁷ 'Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the LORD before my death.' ⁸ Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you. ⁹ Go now to the flock and bring me from there two choice kids of the goats, and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves. ¹⁰ Then you shall take *it* to your father, that he may eat *it*, and that he may bless you before his death." ¹¹ And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Look, Esau my brother *is* a hairy man, and I *am* a smooth-skinned man. ¹² Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him; and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing." ¹³ But his mother said to him, "Let your curse *be* on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get *them* for me." ¹⁴ And he went and got *them* and brought *them* to his mother, and his mother made savory food, such as his father loved. ¹⁵ Then Rebekah took the choice clothes of her elder son Esau, which *were* with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. ¹⁶ And she put the skins of the kids of the goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. ¹⁷ Then she gave the savory food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob. ¹⁸ So he went to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am. Who *are* you, my son?" ¹⁹ Jacob said to his

father, "I *am* Esau your firstborn; I have done just as you told me; please arise, sit and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me." ²⁰ But Isaac said to his son, "How *is it* that you have found *it* so quickly, my son?" And he said, "Because the LORD your God brought *it* to me." ²¹ Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you *are* really my son Esau or not." ²² So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, and he felt him and said, "The voice *is* Jacob's voice, but the hands *are* the hands of Esau." ²³ And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him. ²⁴ Then he said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He said, "I *am*." ²⁵ He said, "Bring *it* near to me, and I will eat of my son's game, so that my soul may bless you." So he brought *it* near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank. ²⁶ Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near now and kiss me, my son." ²⁷ And he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his clothing, and blessed him and said: "Surely, the smell of my son *is* like the smell of a field which the LORD has blessed. ²⁸ Therefore may God give you of the dew of heaven, of the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain and wine. ²⁹ Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, and let your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed *be* everyone who curses you, and blessed *be* those who bless you!" ³⁰ Now it happened, as soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting. ³¹ He also had made savory food, and brought it to his father, and said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that your soul may bless me." ³² And his father Isaac said to him, "Who *are* you?" So he said, "I *am* your son, your firstborn, Esau." ³³ Then Isaac trembled exceedingly, and said, "Who? Where *is* the one who hunted game and brought *it* to me? I ate all *of it* before you came, and I have blessed him—and indeed he shall be blessed." ³⁴ When Esau heard the words of

his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, "Bless me—me also, O my father!"³⁵ But he said, "Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing."³⁶ And *Esau* said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing!" And he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?"³⁷ Then Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Indeed I have made him your master, and all his brethren I have given to him as servants; with grain and wine I have

sustained him. What shall I do now for you, my son?"³⁸ And Esau said to his father, "Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me—me also, O my father!" And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.³⁹ Then Isaac his father answered and said to him: "Behold, your dwelling shall be of the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above."⁴⁰ By your sword you shall live, and you shall serve your brother; and it shall come to pass, when you become restless, that you shall break his yoke from your neck."

May the LORD bless to us the reading and now the preaching of His Word.

A little background:

As we come to look at Isaac in this account,

- it is important to understand that he was the priest of his home—a minister of grace who was appointed to offer sacrifices for his family and to lead them to the Lord.
- Remember that the LORD had appointed sacrifices to be offered for sin immediately after the fall, and many of the people in the ancient world continued to do this, even though they often perverted this worship with idols.
 - This is mentioned, for example, with Job in Job 1:5:
 - **Job 1:4-5: And his sons would go and feast in their houses, each on his appointed day, and would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did regularly.**
- It was customary for the first-born son of each household to take on this responsibility in the family when his father became old.
 - Often, the priesthood was transferred to him in a family ceremony, and with it, that son was given a double portion of the inheritance...
 - so if there were five brothers, the inheritance would be divided into six parts so that the eldest was given two portions and the rest were given one.
 - The son used the extra portion to care for his father's widow and to care for any young children who were in the home, or for his unmarried sisters...
 - And it was also to provide for the expenses of serving at the altar.
 - It was his job to lead the family in his father's stead, often even while his father was still alive, but in his declining years.
- So in the account that I read to you, we have Isaac, transferring the priestly blessing to his eldest son Esau, but there is something very sinister going on here.

I. Here we see the great folly of a minister of grace trying to redirect God's blessing...he is trying to direct it in a different way than God had appointed!

A. Isaac, the son of Abraham, had been blessed with a most extraordinary blessing!

- God had given Abraham and his descendants a special blessing that was like no other in all the world.
- 1. To this family, it was promised that they would bring forth the priest/king who would bless their family and all the nations of the earth!
 - All who blessed Him would be blessed and all who cursed Him would be cursed...
 - He was the one who was promised in Genesis 3:15 right after the fall, the seed of the woman who would crush the head of the serpent who led the human race into rebellion.
 - The ones who are blessed by this priest/king would be the ones who rebelled against the rebellion initiated by the serpent against God—
 - those to whom repentance was granted so that they turn against sin and Satan to follow the Lord and to receive His salvation.
- 2. And as the great priest, He would be the one who would offer the sacrifice that God required to atone for sin...
 - And the thing that was most extraordinary is that this priest would not offer the blood of bulls and goats, but Himself!
 - He would give His life a ransom for many!
 - This had already been revealed in Genesis 3:15 when it was told that His heel would be crushed by the chief enemy of God's people—the serpent who is called Satan...
 - but that He would crush the serpent's head.
 - The crushing of His heel would be his own sacrificial suffering for redemption of His people.
 - And after Abraham had been promised that this son would come through his house and lineage,
 - It had further been shown that He would be a sacrifice of atonement.
 - This was shown when the LORD had commanded Abraham to offer Isaac as a burnt offering on Mount Moriah,
 - but then stopped him, showing that Isaac was not the one to be offered by promising that He would provide the sacrifice.
 - It was not Isaac who was to die for the sins of the elect, but seed of the woman who was to come through Isaac in the distant future.
 - Thus it was that as soon as Jesus Christ came into the world, John the Baptist who officially introduced Him declared Him to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of world—He was to be the priest and the sacrifice...
 - And so it was that at the appointed time, Jesus was crucified as the prophets had foretold—that He was cut off for the transgression of His people.

- Of course, we have the benefit of seeing how all this was fulfilled,
 - but Abraham and Isaac at least knew that God had promised that from a son born to them in future generations, all the nations would be blessed, and all those who blessed Him would be blessed.
- So as we see Isaac in chapter 27, he is old and blind, and he reckons that the time has come for him to confer the blessing upon his son.
 - That is what he sets out to do here as the chapter opens...
- B. Isaac sets out to transfer the privileges of the first-born on his eldest son Esau...
 - **Gen 27:2-4: Then he said, “Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death. Now therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me. And make me savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die.”**
 - To bless him with his soul means that he wants to bless him with all that is within him.
- 1. But right away we can see that something sinister is going on here!
 - a. Isaac does not call the members of his household together for this wonderful event!
 - For this family—being promised the blessing of Christ—this ought to have been an especially joyous family event!
 - You would expect that Isaac would gather them all together and speak of the unique privilege that their family had to bring forth the son that would bless the nations and give them an everlasting inheritance...
 - And that he would give thanks to God and admonish his son to be worthy in his calling as priest of this privileged household,
 - And that he would admonish Jacob and Rebekah to support Esau and to pray for him and to submit to him,
 - And that he would call upon them and upon Esau and upon his servants to look in faith to God for all that He had promised to them.
 - It would be a unifying, glorious event.
 - b. But instead, we see the old man calling Esau to a private meeting—it seems a secret meeting—to convey the blessing to him.
 - Why this cloak of darkness? Clearly, something is amiss here!
- 2. The problem is that Isaac is preparing to bless Esau when he and Esau both knew that Jacob was supposed to get the blessing instead of Esau!
 - a. Jacob and Esau were twins, and as we saw back in chapter 25,
 - They were smashing each other around in a most extraordinary way while they were still in Rebekah’s womb—so much so, that she went to inquire of the LORD about it...
 - And the LORD gave Rebekah an oracle about this...
 - In Genesis 25:23, it says: **And the LORD said to her: “Two nations are in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; One people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger.”**

- So the LORD revealed here that Jacob was to receive the priesthood in this home even though he was born second.
 - Isaac was doing things in secret because he was trying to circumvent this oracle!
 - He wanted the blessing to go to Esau because Esau was his favoured son.
 - And that is not all...
 - b. It had also come about that Esau had sold his birthright to Isaac when he had returned from a hunting trip some years before.
 - We read about this in chapter 25 as well...
 - Jacob had made some red stew and Esau, who had access to plenty of other food in the house, wanted some of that stew...
 - And Jacob, wanting to obtain the birthright in accordance with the oracle, and perhaps knowing how strong Esau's lusts could be...
 - asked Esau to sell his birthright to him in exchange for the red stew...
 - And Esau expressed that he had no use for that birthright because he was going to die anyway—
 - probably he means that he would die before the promised Messiah would come—so the birthright was of no use to him...
 - They knew that their family was destined to go to Egypt for 400 years before He came...so what good was that to Esau now?
 - He could enjoy the stew now, but the birthright could not be enjoyed until after he was dead and gone—
 - He had no hope of eternal life!
 - He looked at the things that are seen and not at the things which are not seen.
 - Surely Isaac knew about this, and yet he was insisting on giving the blessing of the firstborn to Esau instead of Jacob.
 - Should the one who did not care about the eternal value of the promised blessing be the one who was entrusted with its propagation and transmission?
 - And even if (as is remotely possible) Isaac did not know about the oracle or that selling of the birthright by his eldest son...
 - c. He absolutely did know that his son Esau was not fit for the priesthood!
 - We were told at the end of chapter 26 that both he and Rebekah were grieved that Esau had married two Hittite women who were cursed.
 - In every way, Esau shows that he does not care about the unique blessing that was promised to his family!
 - He was a profane man who wanted his portion in this life!
3. Isaac's great folly here is that he tries to redirect God's blessing!
- a. He acts like a pagan priest who tries to gain control of blessings or curses and direct them wherever he wants them to go!
 - It is a very shameful thing!
 - It is no wonder that he tries to do this in secret!
 - He is lurking in darkness because his deeds are evil...

- b. He knew that his wife and his son Jacob would call him on this...
 - But what made him ever think that God would not call him on it?
 - Did he think like king Balak that he could bless what God had cursed?
 - Did he think that by using the blessing formula, he could convey a blessing in a place that was different than the place God had appointed for it?
 - c. And from what it appears, he not only intended to give what was appointed for Jacob to Esau,
 - but he also had no intention of blessing Jacob at all!
- C. It has been the great folly of priests and ministers and fathers (and whoever) to suppose that they can direct divine blessings wherever they wish!
1. This has been done in many different ways...
 - a. Both today, and in ancient times, you have people who try to use white magic or back magic to direct divine blessings and cursing where they wish...
 - Sometimes they call it transmitting energy...
 - Sometimes they use spells or various devices...
 - Sometimes, they use certain rites or perform certain deeds to employ demonic power...
 - Sometimes, they try to use the name of God or Jesus...the way the sons of Sceva did.
 - b. But this has not been restricted to those outside the church!
 - 1) Many ministers today will try to declare God's blessing on those who do not believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus gave ministers the responsibility to pronounce blessing on those that He blesses as His representatives...
 - They are to pronounce blessing on those that the elders have determined by the word of God are to be recognised as the blessed of the Lord.
 - Yet, even though God's word clearly says that no one can come to the Father but through Him (John 14:6),
 - and that (John 3:36): **He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.**
 - These ministers will declare that as long as these unbelievers are sincere—as long as they practice their own religion faithfully, or as long as they are good people, they will be blessed by the Lord!
 - Did God make it up when He said:
 - **1Jo 5:12: “He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life”?**
 - By what authority does a minister pronounce one who does not have the Son to be blessed?
 - Who is the god that is supposed to bless this person whom God Almighty declares to be cursed?

- 2) And there are those elders and ministers who will receive into the church persons who refuse to repent of their sins...
 - They do this, even though the Word of the eternal God says: **1 Cor 6:9-10: Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.**
 - Now don't misunderstand here—
 - We are not to hate persons who practice these things—we are to love them!
 - And part of loving them is calling them to come to Jesus for forgiveness and deliverance from their sins...
 - It is only by repentance and faith in Jesus that we ourselves have been saved.
 - Ministers are not the judges, but they are to faithfully pronounce what God has declared—they are His ministers.
 - Clearly, if anyone comes to Jesus, Jesus will save them!
 - Paul makes this clear in the next verse—**1 Cor 6:11: And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.**
 - But the false ministers want to say that persons who are still practicing these things—who have not come to Jesus for forgiveness and cleansing—are still blessed.
 - They try to direct God's blessing where He has not put it.
 - And let me add that there have also been false ministers who deny God's blessing on those who have practiced such things,
 - even though these persons have repented and come to Christ...
 - Such ministers falsely exclude those that Christ has received.
 - This false rejection has been done by ministers who deny God's blessing upon certain races or for other arbitrary reasons when the Lord Jesus Himself says that if anyone comes to Him for salvation, He will by no means cast them out!
2. At the root of the matter, this redirecting of God's blessing is a rejection of Jesus Christ as the sole source of blessing.
 - a. People don't like the fact that God's blessing only comes through the Son of a Jewish carpenter from Nazareth,
 - and that blessing only comes through faith in Him as the one who was crucified!
 - That offends people because they don't think they need anyone to be crucified to be accepted by God!
 - They suppose that God ought to give His blessing to them and ought to accept them even as they are—without Jesus.

- b. And besides, Jesus does not do what they want Him to do—to drive out the Romans or to end poverty or whatever...
 - Instead, He went to the cross to give His life to atone for sin—which to the world seems quite unnecessary.
 - So to say that God’s blessing is only to be found in Him is quite offensive to people...
 - They want to redirect God’s blessing—not just through Christ, but through other channels.
 - And wicked ministers will go along with this.
- c. The great folly is that they try to gain control of God’s blessing and put it where they want it instead of upon Christ...

II. How does anyone ever come to the place that he supposes he can redirect God’s blessing?

- A. It comes about when you lose sight of what the blessing is—you lose sight of Jesus Christ given for sinners.
 - 1. If Isaac had kept his focus on what he had been shown on Mount Moriah when his father was called to offer him as a burn offering, but then was promised that another would be provided...
 - he would have been full of rejoicing in the priest who was to come and offer Himself for the sins of the world.
 - He would never have pretended that Esau who had no use for this coming One could be His priest and representative when God had appointed Jacob!
 - 2. Not only that, but if he had kept his eye upon Christ, he would have led his family to rejoice this special blessing that was given to his family.
 - Perhaps Esau would have had a different attitude then.
 - Isaac would have taught his family to marvel that Jacob his son had been appointed by God to bring forth this One that would so love us that He would give Himself a ransom for our sins.
 - He would never have presented the blessing as something to be grasped after, but something for the whole family—indeed all the world—to rejoice in!
- B. When you lose sight of Christ who is the true blessing from God, you start looking for blessing in other places!
 - 1. For Isaac, he took pride in Esau, even though Esau was profane.
 - He was proud of his achievements as a hunter, and he was pleased that Esau was devoted to him as his father,
 - And he loved the venison that Esau brought to him...
 - both because of its taste and because it was a symbol of Esau’s achievement as well as his love.
 - It is quite clear in the story here that Isaac places way too much importance on food and on satisfying his carnal senses.
 - We see him blind, but delighting in tasting and smelling and touching.

- And indeed, tasting and smelling were more important to him than seeing and hearing—he wanted to satisfy his own desires without listening to God’s word and seeing what was going on.
2. Men who are not delighting in Christ will be blinded by their lusts...
 - It may be porn, it may be sports, it may be hunting, it may be recreation, it may be personal achievement, it may be security, it may be wealth, it may be gaining control over others, it may be career advancement...
 - Or it may, as it was with Isaac, be food and drink.
 - Certainly, many of these things are things that we ought to receive from God with thanksgiving...
 - I am not talking about becoming a monk—that is to act as if the good things of this life are themselves harmful—it is a form of ingratitude...
 - But I am talking about when these things become idols instead of things for which we give thanks!
 - That is when we become blind.
 3. You know that they are idols when they steal your soul away...and make you deaf to God’s Word.
 - Instead of delighting in laying down your life for others, you start grasping for things to satisfy your own desires.
 - You don’t care about others because you don’t care about Christ.
 - You are not delighting in the beauty of dying so you can live, but you are living to get what you want!
 - You no longer believe that blessing is found in Christ, but in getting what you want!
 - You want to redirect God’s blessing from Christ to food—or riches—or the pride of life—or porn!
 - Isaac’s family were all trying to get what they wanted instead of giving up their lives for the Lord...
 - They were all trying to get what they wanted from each other instead of laying down their lives for each other.
 - It is a downright ugly thing, and Isaac was leading them all the way.

TRANS> So the only reason you can become so blind that you would try to redirect God’s blessing is because you have lost sight of Christ crucified.

III. But God will not let you get away with redirecting His blessing.

A. His blessing always ends up landing where He wants it to land!

1. Even though Isaac makes every effort to bless Esau instead of Jacob, he is completely foiled.
 - a. Of course he is!
 - God does whatsoever He pleases.
 - We cannot send His blessing in another direction.
 - We can’t pull something off on Him when He is not looking!

- b. And what is fascinating here is that God uses the devious means of Rebekah and Jacob to accomplish His purpose!
 - Not because they were clever, and not because they were righteous...
 - But because He had already purposed that He would bless Jacob instead of Esau.
 - If they had not restored to these devious means, He would have done it in some other way.
2. Now I want you to compare this with what God did with Christ.
- a. God had purposed that blessing was to come through Jesus Christ.
 - He had made this clear through many oracles and prophecies that were given for centuries about Him.
 - He had made known the time and place of His birth...
 - He had declared His virgin birth...
 - He had declared that He would be the Son of David...
 - He had declared that He would cause the lame to walk and the blind to see.
 - But the Jewish leaders did not want the blessing to come through Jesus.
 - They wanted to redirect it...so they purposed to crucify Jesus.
 - But God used that very act of theirs to bring about the promised blessing.
 - Little did they know that they were bringing about the blessing by their wicked acts that they did by their scheming!
 - Just as Isaac set out to bless the one he wanted to bless and ended up blessing the one God wanted to be blessed.
 - In the prayer in Acts 4 about their persecutors, the believers pray: **Acts 4:27 “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.”**
 - Like Isaac, they were not trying to accomplish God’s purpose when they crucified Jesus, but that is exactly what they did.
 - b. So you see that men can never successfully control God’s blessing.
 - Instead, they very often end up being an integral part of fulfilling His purpose of blessing despite themselves.
 - Take heart Christian!
 - God is in control and nobody can prevent Him from blessing whatever and whoever He wants to bless.

TRANS> But there is also a wonderful display of God’s grace here—to those who are His children when we try to redirect His blessing.

- Not only does He prevent you from redirecting His blessing...

B. He also wonderfully brings you to repentance for ever having tried to redirect His blessing!

1. Look at what happens with Isaac!
 - a. In verse 30, we are told that as soon as Jacob left, Esau came in to receive the blessing.
 - Verse 31 goes on to say of Esau: **Gen 27:31-32: He also had made savory food, and brought it to his father, and said to his father, “Let my father arise and eat of his son’s game, that your soul may bless me.”** ³² **And his father Isaac said to him, “Who are you?” So he said, “I am your son, your firstborn, Esau.”**
 - b. Look at Isaac’s response as recorded in verse 33:
 - Verse 33 begins: **Then Isaac trembled exceedingly, and said, “Who? Where is the one who hunted game and brought it to me?”**
 - His trembling is very violent—very strong words are used here...he trembled exceedingly!
 - He realised that he had been deceived!
 - It is very disturbing to see that you have been fighting against God!
 - How could you have ever been so foolish!
 - c. But then something wonderful happens...
 - Isaac is brought to repentance...
 - He says of Jacob (still in verse 33): **“I have blessed him—and indeed he shall be blessed.”**
 - He knows that it is the LORD who has conveyed the blessing to Jacob through him, and that he cannot change it... **I have blessed him—and indeed he shall be blessed.**
 - Now Isaac is trusting God’s word which he had doubted before!
 - He does not try to take the blessing back and give it to Esau.
 - He knows that this would be futile—he believes.
 - We can be sure that this is an expression of faith because we are told that it is in Hebrews 11...where it says:
 - **Heb 11:20: By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.**
 - Now he is shut up to God’s purposes!
2. If you are one who is truly in Christ, the Lord will bring you back from trying to redirect His blessing.
 - You will be brought to the reality that it is Christ through whom God’s blessing comes.
 - It is not where you tried to put it or to find it—but it is in Christ alone.
 - You cannot change what God had determined about Christ...
 - It is in Him alone that His blessing is to be found.
 - Blessing is found in this carpenter’s son from Nazareth who died in order that we might live.
 - Death to give life is beautiful—it is God’s way of blessing in this sinful world.

Conclusion: So what about you?

- Have you lost sight of Christ?
 - Are you foolishly trying to find blessing elsewhere?
 - Are you competing with others to control where the blessing goes?
 - That is idolatry...
- Come to Christ who was crucified—that is where God’s blessing is found.
 - It sounds foolish and you will be mocked on account of Him, but that is where the real blessing is.
 - The foolish thing is to try to redirect it to another place.
 - That is what false religion and irreligion does.