

## GENESIS 27:18-20, 28-33 MIXED BLESSING

<sup>18</sup> He went to his father and said, "My father." "Yes, my son," he answered. "Who is it?"

<sup>19</sup> Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat some of my game so that you may give me your blessing."

<sup>20</sup> Isaac asked his son, "How did you find it so quickly, my son?" "The LORD your God gave me success," he replied.

<sup>28</sup> May God give you of heaven's dew and of earth's richness—an abundance of grain and new wine. <sup>29</sup> May nations serve you and peoples bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may the sons of your mother bow down to you. May those who curse you be cursed and those who bless you be blessed."

<sup>30</sup> After Isaac finished blessing him and Jacob had scarcely left his father's presence, his brother Esau came in from hunting. <sup>31</sup> He too prepared some tasty food and brought it to his father. Then he said to him, "My father, sit up and eat some of my game, so that you may give me your blessing."

<sup>32</sup> His father Isaac asked him, "Who are you?" "I am your son," he answered, "your firstborn, Esau."

<sup>33</sup> Isaac trembled violently and said, "Who was it, then, that hunted game and brought it to me? I ate it just before you came and I blessed him—and indeed he will be blessed!"

Isaac, Jacob and Esau knew the power of words. The biblical witness to the power of words is the fact that God created through the Word when he spoke creation into being. A word of blessing and a word of curse were equally powerful and inviolable. So, when Isaac spoke the blessing over Jacob that rightfully was meant for Esau, it was THE blessing anyway, and since it was Jacob who received the words, it was Jacob who received the blessing.

We would do well to come to a better understanding of the power of words. Too often we use words as a convenient dodge so as not to take responsibility or for avoiding consequences. Sometimes it feels as if we live in the Lewis Carroll novel, *Through the Looking Glass*, in which the character Humpty-Dumpty proclaims that when he uses a word it mean anything he chooses it to mean. The power to communicate, the power to be creative, the power to bless is lost when there is no integrity to our words. In a very real way when we strip words of the truth, every word becomes a curse.

Thankfully, God's word is eternally true. While all words uttered by men are at best a mixed blessing, God's word is pure. He is not a blind old man and cannot be deceived. He makes no mistake. Therefore, as children of God living in this world, may we make him known by always striving to be sure that our words will be words of blessing to those around us.

**Dear Lord Jesus, as you have commanded that my "Yes" be yes and my "No" be no, empower me to speak the words of truth which have the power to transform me and the world around me. May I take my words more seriously, choose them more wisely and share them more carefully in the days to come. Amen.**