

# Isaac's Children: When Hunger Trumps Heritage

Genesis 25:19-34 | Pastor Kene Panas | January 11, 2026

## BEFORE WE BEGIN

Look at the image on the screen:

- Two brothers
- One \_\_\_\_\_ (holding a bowl)
- One on his \_\_\_\_\_ (reaching desperately)

This moment didn't start with the brothers. It started with their \_\_\_\_\_.

## I. ISAAC'S RÉSUMÉ: The Miracle Child (vv. 19-21)

### 1. Genesis 25:19-21: Isaac's Resume

19 These are the generations of **Isaac**, **Abraham's** son:

**Abraham** fathered **Isaac**,

20 and **Isaac** was **forty years** old

when he took **Rebekah**,

the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram,

the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife.

21 And **Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife**,

because **she was barren**.

And **the LORD granted his prayer**,

and **Rebekah his wife conceived**.

Isaac had every spiritual advantage:

- \_\_\_\_\_ conception (born to 100-year-old Abraham and 90-year-old Sarah)
- Divine \_\_\_\_\_ (spared on Mount Moriah, protected throughout his life)
- Front-row \_\_\_\_\_ to Abraham's faith journey
- Material \_\_\_\_\_ (inherited everything)
- Direct \_\_\_\_\_ to prayer (God gave him Rebekah and twins)

Key Truth: Isaac prayed \_\_\_\_\_ time, God answered, then Isaac drifted for

\_\_\_\_\_.

The Problem: Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ ≠ spiritual \_\_\_\_\_

## II. THE ORACLE: God Speaks Clearly (vv. 22-23)

### 2. Genesis 25: 22-23: The Oracle

22 The children struggled together within her,  
and she said,  
"If it is thus, why is this happening to me?"  
So she went to inquire of the LORD.  
23 And the LORD said to her,  
"Two nations are in your womb,  
and two peoples from within you shall be divided;  
the one shall be stronger than the other,  
the older shall serve the younger."

When Rebekah inquired of the LORD about the struggling twins, God said:

*"Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided;  
the one shall be stronger than the other,*

*the \_\_\_\_\_ shall serve the \_\_\_\_\_."*

#### The Question: Did Isaac know about the oracle?

The Answer: Most likely, \_\_\_\_\_, because:

1. Rebekah had no reason to \_\_\_\_\_ it
2. The text's \_\_\_\_\_ is significant
3. It makes Isaac's failure more \_\_\_\_\_

Bottom Line: God spoke \_\_\_\_\_. Isaac heard it. Isaac \_\_\_\_\_ it for 77 years.

## III. THE DRIFT: Seeds of Dysfunction (vv. 24-28)

### 3. Genesis 25:24-28: The Drift

24 When her days to give birth were completed,  
behold, there were twins in her womb.  
25 The first came out red,  
all his body like a hairy cloak,  
so they called his name Esau.  
26 Afterward his brother came out  
with his hand holding Esau's heel,  
so his name was called Jacob.

Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

27 When the boys grew up,  
Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field,  
while Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents.

28 Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game,  
but Rebekah loved Jacob.

### The Birth (vv. 24-26):

- \_\_\_\_\_ came out first (red and hairy)
- \_\_\_\_\_ came out second (grasping his brother's heel)

### The Devastating Choice (v. 28):

"Isaac loved Esau, \_\_\_\_\_ he ate of his game,  
but Rebekah loved Jacob."\*

Isaac's favoritism was driven by his \_\_\_\_\_.

Key Insight: \_\_\_\_\_ destroys families. It starts with parents who know better but choose \_\_\_\_\_ over obedience.

## IV. THE DESPISING: Two Hearts Revealed (vv. 29-34)

### 4. Genesis 25:29-34: The Despising

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

### ESAU'S IMPULSIVENESS (vv. 29-32)

Esau traded his \_\_\_\_\_ (which represents family leadership, covenant blessing, and double inheritance) for a bowl of \_\_\_\_\_.

His reasoning: "I am about to die; of what use is a \_\_\_\_\_ to me?"

He chose the \_\_\_\_\_ over the eternal.

He chose the \_\_\_\_\_ over the spiritual.

### JACOB'S CUNNING (v. 33)

Jacob said: "\_\_\_\_\_ to me first."

He wanted the blessing and was willing to \_\_\_\_\_ to get it.

### THE VERDICT (v. 34)

"Thus Esau \_\_\_\_\_ his birthright."

The word "despised" means to treat as \_\_\_\_\_, to hold in contempt.

Like father, like son: Esau cared more about his \_\_\_\_\_ than his spiritual inheritance—just like Isaac.

## V. THE FAITHFUL GOD: The Only Constant

### The Stunning Truth:

The covenant doesn't depend on \_\_\_\_\_ faithfulness.

It depends on \_\_\_\_\_ faithfulness.

### Despite:

- Isaac's \_\_\_\_\_
- Isaac's \_\_\_\_\_
- The family \_\_\_\_\_
- Esau's impulsiveness
- Jacob's cunning

The \_\_\_\_\_ continues.

### Three Truths:

1. The covenant doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ when Isaac drifts
2. It doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ when favoritism divides the family
3. It moves \_\_\_\_\_ because God is faithful

### This is:

- \*\*Terrifying:\*\* Our spiritual privilege means \_\_\_\_\_ without faithfulness
- \*\*Liberating:\*\* God's purposes succeed \_\_\_\_\_ our failures

## VI. APPLICATION: For Your Life Today

### To the Spiritually Privileged:

Your spiritual résumé means \_\_\_\_\_ if you're not walking in faithfulness TODAY.

Don't be Isaac. \_\_\_\_\_ up. Choose \_\_\_\_\_ today.

### To Parents:

Isaac's \_\_\_\_\_ wrecked his family.

Stop choosing your favorites based on personality, performance, or who makes you feel good.

Your kids are \_\_\_\_\_. Choose wisely. Choose equally.

### To the Discouraged:

If God can fulfill His purposes through Isaac, there's \_\_\_\_\_ for you.

The covenant didn't \_\_\_\_\_ when Isaac failed.

\_\_\_\_\_, return, and start walking in obedience today.

### To Everyone:

The only reliable constant is God's \_\_\_\_\_ faithfulness.

Not your \_\_\_\_\_. Not your résumé. Not your heritage.

**GOD. His character. His promise. His word.**

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. In what areas of my life am I coasting on spiritual privilege rather than walking in active obedience?
2. Am I showing favoritism in my family? How is my appetite (what I want, what feels good) influencing my choices?
3. What "birthright" (spiritual inheritance, covenant promises) am I treating as less valuable than immediate gratification?
4. How does knowing that God's covenant faithfulness doesn't depend on my performance both convict me and comfort me?

## KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

*"Isaac loved Esau, because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob."*

— Genesis 25:28 (ESV)

## ANSWER KEY

### BEFORE WE BEGIN

- One **standing** (holding a bowl)
- One on his **knees** (reaching desperately)
- It started with their **father**

### I. ISAAC'S RÉSUMÉ

- **Miraculous** conception
- Divine **protection** (corrected from "preserved through famine")
- Front-row **seat**
- Material **wealth**
- Direct **answers** to prayer
- Prayed **ONE** time, drifted for **decades**
- Spiritual **privilege** ≠ spiritual **maturity**

### II. THE ORACLE

- The **older** shall serve the **younger**
- Almost certainly **YES**
- Hide, **silence**, **tragic**
- God spoke **clearly**, Isaac **ignored** it

### III. THE DRIFT

- **Esau** came first, **Jacob** came second
- **"because"** he ate of his game
- Driven by his **appetite**
- **Favoritism** destroys families
- Choose **appetite** over obedience

### IV. THE DESPISING

- Traded his **birthright** for **stew**
- "Of what use is a **birthright** to me?"

- Chose the **\*\*immediate\*\*** over eternal
- Chose the **\*\*physical\*\*** over spiritual
- **\*\*\*Swear\*\*** to me first"
- Willing to **\*\*manipulate\*\***
- Esau **\*\*despised\*\*** his birthright
- Treat as **\*\*worthless\*\***
- Cared about his **\*\*stomach\*\***

## V. THE FAITHFUL GOD

- Doesn't depend on **\*\*human\*\*** faithfulness, depends on **\*\*GOD'S\*\*** faithfulness
- Isaac's **\*\*passivity\*\***, Isaac's **\*\*favoritism\*\***, family **\*\*dysfunction\*\***
- The **\*\*covenant\*\*** continues
- Doesn't **\*\*fail\*\***, doesn't **\*\*collapse\*\***, moves **\*\*forward\*\***
- Privilege means **\*\*nothing\*\*** without faithfulness
- Succeed **\*\*despite\*\*** our failures

## ▪ VII. APPLICATION (4 min) **\*\*[SLIDE 8]\*\***

### ▪ **To the spiritually privileged:**

- Your résumé means nothing if you're not walking in faithfulness TODAY.
- Don't be Isaac. Wake up. Choose obedience. Now.

### ▪ **To parents:**

- Isaac's favoritism wrecked his family.
- Stop choosing based on personality/performance/who makes you feel good.
- Your kids are watching. Choose wisely. Choose equally. Choose based on God's Word.

### ▪ **To the discouraged:**

- "I AM Isaac. I've wasted privilege. Too late."
- → If God fulfilled His purposes through Isaac, there's hope for you.
- Covenant didn't fail when Isaac failed.
- Repent. Return. Start walking in obedience TODAY.

### ▪ **To everyone:**

- Only reliable constant: God's covenant faithfulness.
- Not your performance. Not your résumé. Not your heritage.
- God. His character. His promise. His word.

