

Ever try to get ahead at another's expense? This activity makes other people angry. We can run away, but eventually we are going to have to face our deceptiveness. Why run? Fear, regret, shame, or self condemnation. Nobody can love me after what I have done, right? Traumas are opportunities to meet with God. Our loving God helps and encourages us to get beyond our past failures. (Genesis 27-35)

USAMPS Weekly Bible Study
22 Feb 2011
Traumas are Opportunities

(Please read Genesis 27-28)

Ever try to get ahead at another's expense? This activity when it does work is exceedingly expensive (it is going to cost you) and has a short shelf life. Fear, regret, shame and self condemnation are the baggage that comes with deceit. It does make other people angry, though. Deception is done under the cover of darkness. We can run but we will not be able to hide. Eventually we are going to have to face our own deceptiveness. Nobody can love me after what I have done, right? Traumas and trials will come. Sometimes these crisis events may even be caused by our own choices. Often it is not until we are in a crisis that we exhaust our resources and need outside assistance. Crises are opportunities to meet with God. Our loving God helps and encourages us to get beyond our past failures. In the story of Jacob we see a guy determined to get ahead at other's expense.

1. Whose idea was it to deceive Isaac? Rebekah, his mother, worked up the plan. Jacob is not innocent though, as he still went along with the deception. Rebekah knew what she was doing was wrong ...the curse be upon me, she said in Genesis 27:13. Be careful not to be led astray by someone else's need to succeed. Others may see your success and try to live vicariously through you. Who determines where you end up and the paths you take? You and God (Psalm 1:1-6 and 37:23)

2. What does deceit or deception mean? Falseness, strategically placed slight of hand with ulterior motives, nothing is as it appears on the surface. Deceit may start as half truths but ends as whole lies. Once start down this path Jacob now has to lie to continue the deception. (Gen. 27:19)

3. How does Esau respond to being cheated? (Gen. 27:41) When found out this activity makes other people angry. Was he justified in being angry? Was his verbal response appropriate?

4. We can run away, but eventually we are going to have to face our deceptiveness. Why do we keep running? (Gen. 27:43) We are running to get away from our fear, regret, shame, guilt or unforgiving spirit.

5. Was Jacob a righteous man when God chose to talk with him? (Gen 28:13) Was this a dialogue or monologue? Why monologue? It was an introduction. God was introducing himself to Jacob. The relationship starts from here.

Surely the Lord was in this place and I was not aware of it. (Gen. 28:16)

How does Jacob respond to this conversation with God? (Gen. 28:20-22) Jacob makes a vow. Jacob tithes to the Lord. (gives 10%) This is the second time tithing is seen in Scripture. The first is in Genesis 14:19-Abraham.

God accepts us where we are but desires to take us to a place where we are value added to the kingdom and able to become more than we would ever have been without him.