Injustice

1. Within the context of daily human life, for each of us, determining what is right & just can be complex, involving our beliefs & motives, thoughts (inner dialogue), feelings, words & actions.
2. **Beliefs** – are you trusting your ideas from the world, dominated by wrong desires & defensiveness or are you surrendered to the Lord and operating from humility to edify those in your life.

* Are you telling yourself that real change is not possible, or too hard or not worth the effort required.

1. **Motives** – whose interest are you serving, your own or the Lord’s – did Rebekah believe she was serving the Lord by favoring Jacob and deceiving her husband & other son?
2. **Thoughts** – what was she telling herself, that God was requiring her to lie & deceive? Was God not able to bring about His will without her? Did she want/need to remain in control of Jacob’s life?

* Fear makes us controllers – she controlled Jacob, Isaac & the situation – why was that necessary?

1. **Emotions** – our thinking: what we envision with eyes of our heart & what we tell ourselves moment to moment causes our brain to produce emotions in keeping with our thoughts]

* Imagine worst, visually & verbally = feel awful; Imagine God’s blessings = feel joy, peace, content

1. **Words & actions** – how long had she been planning this? Had she & Isaac discussed the situation?

* Jacob felt no guilt only fear of being harmed – she was committed to persuading him to act

**Application:**

1. In what area of your life are you determined to be in control? Are you prone to control those around you, those that love you? Are you aware that you try to control everyone & everything because you are either afraid or you are a psychopath with no conscience? Do you think Rebekah was controlling?
2. Are you demanding & very difficult to please? Are you critical and judgmental toward those closest to you? Is it your way or the highway? Fear that our life will not be what we want it to be or how we envision that it must be for us to be happy is caused by trusting your heart to your circumstances.
3. Are you a source of deception or distrust in your relationships? With whom and in what way? What do you tell yourself is the reason that you are not content with what God has given you?

* Does anyone think that was the first time that Rebekah had controlled her home with deception?
* She came from a family of knaves and con artists (Laban) for whom deception was a way of life
* In the immediate moment, she conceived a master plan to deceive her husband – first time?

1. Are you suffering from injustice? From someone’s selfishness, deception or fearful controlling? Do you live with someone who is domineering & demanding? How do you deal with this person?
2. **Isaac** - Husband with a demanding or controlling wife: Husbands must submit to Lord, love your wife but don’t allow yourself to be controlled

* Agape Love endures all abuses & edifies in return; maybe deciding to go along with the demands or not go along with what is expected based on what you believe will edify in the moment.
* Schemers & controllers are just sinners and those behaviors are their brand of sinfulness
* Provide an edifying environment, encouraging the person to grow in the Lord w/out confronting their unhealthy behavior bc their choices are between them and the Lord.

1. **Leah** – wife with unloving husband who divided the children with favoritism & failed to see her worth

* 1Pet 3:1-6 submit to the Lord and use inner beauty through humility to edify him
* She needed to focus her love on the Lord who gave her a son who was the line of Messiah

1. Ever since Lucifer sinned and God allowed evil to flourish in the Angelic Conflict, injustice and unfairness has existed because all the people you love are sinners.
2. Injustice & every other type of adversity is part of life, there is no avoiding it – the key to dealing with injustice is the same as dealing with all other difficulties, surrender to the Lord & trust Him for it.
3. When we react sinfully to injustice (Esau) we make life much worse for ourselves & the others in our life by becoming angry, bitter, childish and vengeful – many ways to blow up your family.

**Isaac’s Fear**

***Gen 27:30-33*** *Now it came about, as soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had hardly gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting. 31 Then he also made savory food, and brought it to his father; and he said to his father, "Let my father arise, and eat of his son's game, that you may bless me." 32 And Isaac his father said to him, "Who are you?" And he said, "I am your son, your first-born, Esau."33 Then Isaac* ***trembled violently****, and said, "Who was he then that hunted game and brought it to me, so that I ate of all of it before you came, and blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed."*

1. Isaac trembled violently **with fear –** realized that God had overruled his attempt to promote Esau

* ***existemi*** – step out of your mind, he violently stepped out of his own mind with fear

1. You would think that he would tremble with anger toward Rebekah & Jacob – he was afraid of the Lord
2. Even when we disobey Him, the Lord causes His will to be done – He either stops us or allows us to choose & then uses the consequences of our choice to teach us & honor Him.
3. God’s point is that the blessings go to the believers only & those who reject His grace get nothing & worse
4. This event took place when Esau & Jacob were in their late 60’s – Jacob left at 70yrs old.

*34 When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, "Bless me, even me also, O my father!"*

1. Esau reacted with a loud, forceful, bitter weeping & demands that Isaac give him what he wanted
2. Esau was a person who operated on instinct & emotion, using his personality to get what he wanted.
3. He was a reckless and careless person who until age 70 at least never decided to become intentional about his life to consider salvation through the promise given to Abraham & Isaac.
4. They were both about 40 years old when Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of soup & they were about 70 when this deception occurred.

*35 And he said, "Your brother came deceitfully, and has taken away your blessing." 36 Then he said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob, for he has taken advantage of me these two times? He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing." And he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?"*

1. Now comes the blame game so that Esau doesn’t have to take responsibility for his own actions
2. Rebekah & Jacob were both opportunists, taking advantage of other’s weakness through deception
3. Esau blames Jacob, claiming that he took his birthright away, instead of admitting that he had sold it.
4. There is no spiritual growth w/out self-reflection & self-evaluation with a commitment to total honesty
5. There is no transformation from recognizing & rejecting our false beliefs so that we have place within our hearts for the truth to replace our worldly ideas.
6. Many people use their inherited traits and personalities as an excuse for their careless approach to the Lord and to their lives – our churches would not be devoted to entertainment & emotion if it wasn’t what the people wanted and demanded – USA is not coming apart because of Communists but because of us.

*37 But Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Behold, I have made him your master, and all his relatives I have given to him as servants; and with grain and new wine I have sustained him. Now as for you then, what can I do, my son?" 38 And Esau said to his father, "Do you have only one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father." So Esau lifted his voice and wept.*

1. The blessing was legal and apparently irrevocable – Jacob became the Lord of Isaac’s inheritance
2. These are rhetorical questions, Esau knows that there is nothing Isaac can do now.
3. A 70 “man” breaks down and weeps over the loss of earthly prosperity – no mention of the spiritual

*39 Then Isaac his father answered and said to him, "Behold, away from the fertility of the earth shall be your dwelling, and away from the dew of heaven from above. 40 "And by your sword you shall live, and your brother you shall serve; But it shall come about when you become restless, that you shall break his yoke from your neck." 41 So Esau bore a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him; and Esau said to himself, "The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob."*

1. The adversity of losing the earthly prosperity evokes Esau’s sinful anger (like it does ours) so that he decides that he deserves to be allowed to kill Jacob.
2. When God rejected Lucifer’s plot to become independent, rather than humble himself before God to be blessed, he was filled with murderous rage that has filled the universe with his sin.
3. If Esau had been allowed, he would have further torn the family apart by murdering Jacob.
4. You and I are going to lose our loved ones and the things we highly value – it is imperative that you allow these losses to humble you, letting go of the earthly treasure so that the Lord can make you grateful.
5. The adversities of our life are God given opportunities to see into our true beliefs and thoughts so that we can surrender to Him and use His grace to exchange our earthly treasures for heavenly ones.

***Mat 6:19-20*** *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.* ***20*** *"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;*

*42 Now when the words of her elder son Esau were reported to Rebekah, she sent and called her younger son Jacob, and said to him, "Behold your brother Esau is consoling himself concerning you, by planning to kill you. 43 "Now therefore, my son, obey my voice, and arise, flee to Haran, to my brother Laban! 44 "And stay with him a few days, until your brother's fury subsides, 45 until your brother's anger against you subsides, and he forgets what you did to him. I shall send & get you from there. Why should I be bereaved of you both in one day?"*

1. When Rebekah hears about Esau’s plan, she comes up with another scheme to protect Jacob.
2. If we look at Jacob’s time with her brother Laban, we will see that her entire family were schemers.
3. She talks with Jacob about the real reason for him leaving – she has lost one son Esau through her treachery and if Jacob stays she might lose another one.

*46 And Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am tired of living because of the daughters of Heth; if Jacob takes a wife from the daughters of Heth, like these, from the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me.*

1. Heth was the son of Canaan, son of Noah, father of the Hittites whose daughters Esau married
2. I am tired of living – if Jacob marries a Hittite woman like Esau I will kill myself – drama
3. Rather than tell Isaac the truth about why she is manipulating her 70 year old son to go to her brother, she makes up another story to manipulate him also.

* Isaac at this time was 130 years old & he lived 50 more years to 180

1. Although women had very few legal rights at this time, they have always had the ability to use their feminine powers to either bless/strengthen a man or use/manipulate a man out of greed or fear.
2. The devil’s plan for societies is for men to use women, but in the guise of freeing women, to hurt them & damage them so that they close off their hearts in self-protection & so she loses her capacity to bless the man in her life by opening herself to him & giving him her respect and admiration.

* A hurt woman with a self-protective, closed heart is unable to admire & respect the men in her life & unable to give them that which strengthens them – tells herself to remain unwilling to risk her heart
* Birth control pill freed women to approach sexuality like men and the 1960’s turned into a sexual free for all, damaging both men and women’s hearts, destroying the family and the children & the nation

**Application**

1. We come into the world with inherited traits & tendencies, including the trends of our sin nature, our temperament and personality.
2. We naturally believe that our inherited traits & personality are the “me” that God created and we think “this is just the way I am, take it or leave it.”
3. Using our natural strengths and weaknesses as our foundational influence, we build our beliefs, habits & patterns into our hearts, apart from God’s influence – the “me” that you are is not from God.
4. Esau was a doer who shot from the hip & ran his life by the seat of his pants – he never stopped to consider his spiritual options – salvation and the spiritual walk is a moment to moment intentional life

**Heb 12:16** *there be* no self-indulgent or disrespectful person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for ameal.

1. Our natural state when we come into the world is far from the way God designed us to be and the temptation is to continue following our instincts, using our natural state as an excuse not to change.
2. Jesus in His humanity had perfect natural instincts to put the divine interests as the center of His beliefs and His daily living – perfect humanity while we are born with corrupted humanity