

SERMON:Mother Rebekah; The Organizer and Screen Director

By Rev. Moses K. Ndereva; Pastor Lifeline Community Fellowship

Key Text Scripture: Genesis 27:1-4; 5,8-9, 11-13, 16, 22, 42-47, Genesis 28:1-3

¹When Isaac was old and his eyes were so weak that he could no longer see, he called for Esau his older son and said to him, "My son." "Here I am," he answered.

²Isaac said, "I am now an old man and don't know the day of my death. ³Now then, get your equipment—your quiver and bow—and go out to the open country to hunt some wild game for me. ⁴Prepare me the kind of tasty food I like and bring it to me to eat, so that I may give you my blessing before I die."

⁵**Now Rebekah was listening as Isaac spoke to his son Esau.** When Esau left for the open country to hunt game and bring it back, ⁶Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "Look, I overheard your father say to your brother Esau,.....

⁸**Now, my son, listen carefully and do what I tell you:** ⁹Go out to the flock and bring me two choice young goats, so I can prepare some tasty food for your father, just the way he likes it.¹⁰Then take it to your father to eat, so that he may give you his blessing before he dies."

¹¹Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "**But my brother Esau is a hairy man while I have smooth skin. ¹²What if my father touches me? I would appear to be tricking him and would bring down a curse on myself rather than a blessing.**"

¹³His mother said to him, "**My son, let the curse fall on me. Just do what I say;go and get them for me.**"....

¹⁴So he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and **she prepared some tasty food, just the way his father liked it.** ¹⁵**Then Rebekah took the best clothes of Esau her older son, which she had in the house, and put them on her younger son Jacob.** ¹⁶**She also covered his hands and the smooth part of his neck with the goatskins.** ¹⁷Then she handed to her son Jacob the tasty food and the bread she had made.

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

¹⁹Jacob 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."

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

²¹Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come near so I can touch you, my son, to know whether you really are my son Esau or not."

²²Jacob went close to his father Isaac, who touched him and said, "**The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau.**" ²³He did not recognize him, for his hands were hairy like those of his brother Esau; so he proceeded to bless him. ²⁴"Are you really my son Esau?" he asked. "I am," he replied.

²⁵Then he said, "My son, bring me some of your game to eat, so that I may give you my blessing."

Jacob brought it to him and he ate; and he brought some wine and he drank.²⁶Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come here, my son, and kiss me."

²⁷So he went to him and kissed him. When Isaac caught the smell of his clothes, he blessed him and said, "Ah, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field that the LORD has blessed....

⁴²**When Rebekah was told what her older son Esau had said, she sent for her younger son Jacob and said to him, "Your brother Esau is planning to avenge himself by killing you. ⁴³Now then, my son, do what I say: Flee at once to my brother Laban in**

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Harran. ⁴⁴Stay with him for a while until your brother's fury subsides. ⁴⁵When your brother is no longer angry with you and forgets what you did to him, I'll send word for you to come back from there. Why should I lose both of you in one day?"

⁴⁶**Then Rebekah said to Isaac, "I'm disgusted with living because of these Hittite women. If Jacob takes a wife from among the women of this land, from Hittite women like these, my life will not be worth living."**

Genesis 28:1-2

¹**So Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him. Then he commanded him: "Do not marry a Canaanite woman. ²Go at once to Paddan Aram,^[a] to the house of your mother's father Bethuel. Take a wife for yourself there, from among the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother.**

INTRODUCTION:

Today we honor mothers everywhere and especially those who are blessed to be among us at Lifeline Community Fellowship. (A round of applause for mothers please). There is a Spanish proverb that says; **"An ounce of mother is worth a ton of priest."** No wonder Mothers Day is such a sensation compared to the Fathers Day that appears to be a consolation after thought. A mother can singlehandedly shape the life of a child; a task that calls for community effort.

A mother is our first contact caregiver, teacher, advocate, philanthropist, preacher, and virtually everything. As we walk through our text and discuss some aspects of Rebekah and Jacob her son, we will appreciate mothers as stage managers who stay ahead of the game doing all they can to set up their children for success in life. Let us note that the lavish love mothers gave us is but a shadow of the love God has lavished on us. A mother will risk embarrassment to stand up for her child. God loved us while we were still sinners. Jesus left his splendor and glory to reach a lost world and gave his life for each of us. We all are destined to make it if we lean on the everlasting arms of Jesus.

A true mother will risk and sacrifice anything for the love of her child. Some mothers have divorced to save their children! Others have been forced to marry people they don't really care about to make room for their children. Others endure excruciating pain in relationships just to secure a future for their children. For others, motherhood is sentimental because perhaps it was an accident, or may be down the road the very children changed hopes and dreams to a living hell. These circumstances notwithstanding, mothers evolve to accept the situation as it is and have raised children who have hopes they never had. Some skipped opportunities or passed on gifts to protect their children.

Growing up in a land of scarcity, we know of mothers who passed on their meal to feed their children after some "father" ate their fair share.

Illustration:

A teacher asked a boy this question: "Suppose your mother baked a pie and there were seven of you--your parents and five children. What part of the pie would you get?" "A sixth," replied the boy. "I'm afraid you don't know your fractions," said the teacher. "Remember, there are seven of you." "Yes, teacher," said the boy, "but you don't know my mother. Mother would say she didn't want any pie."

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This scenario is not uncommon. It illustrates the sacrifices mothers make to get us to a better place. They do tasks with their extra hands, see multiple things with hidden compound eyes, hear stuff they would rather not, and will take action when least expected. A mother will speak up for her child where you least expect. A little boy forgot his lines in a Sunday school presentation. His mother was in the front row to prompt him. She gestured and formed the words silently with her lips, but it did not help. Her son's memory was blank. Finally, she leaned forward and whispered the cue, "I am the light of the world." The child beamed and with great feeling and a loud clear voice said, "My mother is the light of the world." No crowd can stop a mother to help her child.

(I hope you all saw or heard about that mother in Baltimore who identified her son in a hood and musk and politely led him home...just kidding). Mothers can imagine things before they happen. They tell you what you are about to do before you act....familiar? The children being who they are note everything the mother does but will still not give her a break! **No wonder to comfort their mother, a story is told of a four-year-old and a six-year-old who presented their Mom with a house plant. They had used their own money and she was thrilled. The older of them said with a sad face, "There was a bouquet that we wanted to give you at the flower shop. It was real pretty, but it was too expensive. It had a ribbon on it that said, 'Rest In Peace,' and we thought it would be just perfect since you are always asking for a little peace so that you can rest."** Sadly, for some mothers, rest will only come when they bite the dust. Motherhood is an unending mission. Your mother will never grow to become your grandmother; just your mother!

Let us for a moment watch drama as it unfolds in Isaac's household directed by mother Rebekah. There are key lessons to learn from this woman of faith that will stop at nothing to ensure Jacob succeeds.

1. Rebekah listens carefully before talking. In verse 5, Rebekah overhears a conversation between Esau and Isaac. Mothers, there is value in listening carefully. Because she was a careful listener, she practiced it and we see her in Verse 8 teaching Jacob to listen carefully and obey. Mothers should listen more than they talk. Jacob took the lesson seriously and obeyed. We see Jacob practicing the same virtue when he overheard Laaban's sons planning mischief and listening helped him escape with his life and wealth. We must teach our children to listen.
2. Rebekah employed her talent in cooking and dressing as verse 9 proves. She cooked meals that would influence and change heart. She dressed her son Jacob for the D-Day with his Father. We must teach and prepare our children to obtain favor with those who hold keys and authority in their lives. She knew her husband well enough to direct him unawares. Your skills will open doors that are seemingly impossible for your children. No woman should command a husband but tact can achieve more than a command. She who has ears let her hear the word of the Lord.
3. Rebekah taught Jacob to be fearless but tactful. Verse 11-12, 13; she practically assured Jacob she was in drama with him. She was willing to bear the consequences of her

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advice. She was willing to shield Jacob with her life. She removed doubts from him and taught him confidence. Let us teach our children not to fear. Jacob was later to face Laaban squarely with the question of bride and wages shortchanging. Rebekah's preparation was thorough. She left nothing to chance. She even ensured he would smell right.

4. Rebekah knew she only could do the best; there are limitations beyond us. Those are the things we leave in God's hands. In verse 22, we see Isaac is convinced Jacob was Esau except for the voice. There was nothing Rebekah could do about the voice. It was inside Jacob. Let us know all we can do is the very best. There are some things we cannot change in the lives of our children and we cannot beat ourselves about them or fail to release our children in fear. Do your best and leave it with God.
5. Rebekah was always a step ahead in protecting Jacob. In verse 42-47, Rebekah realizes she has no authority to send her son away to her family and it was the only way out. She comes around to Isaac purporting to hate Esau's Canaanite wives to death yet she had never raised the matter before. She played the "disgusted" card and it worked a miracle. Apparently, Isaac remembers his in-laws and directs Jacob to go for a wife there even though it was really about his safety. First we learn to stay within our powers and authority regardless of our passions. Isaac was the only person with the blessing and power to release Jacob and Rebekah was obedient to that fact. Isaac thinks he is the head but Rebekah is ahead! She organized, Isaac executed!

Remember:

It is in the best interest of our children that we have our ears to the ground listening for them. They are too wild to listen carefully while engulfed by the winds of change and inevitable past circumstances. We must organize ahead to set the stage for our children's success. Jacob had no chance in view being a second-born and a cool kind of a stay at home bother. His mother put him ahead. Salome tried to do it for her two sons. **Matthew 20:20-21;** ²⁰ **Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.** ²¹ **"What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."**

Blessings and favor for your children are worth your best shot. It may not always work but it is worth your time and effort. Let us stand up for our children and fight for them to enter the Kingdom of God. It is a blessing worth fighting for. Happy Mother's Day!