



The Mixed Bag

Mother's Day 2024

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Bible Text: Genesis 25-27

Mixed Bag – A miscellaneous collection having both positive and negative qualities or aspects.

Motherhood can be a mixed bag filled with ups and downs.

When faced with the question: How do we properly respond when things don't seem to be progressing?
Based upon Rebekah's life, what lessons can we apply today?

1. _____.

Genesis 25:20-21, 26²⁰ and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan Aram[c] and sister of Laban the Aramean. ²¹ Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was childless. The Lord answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant... ²⁶ After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them."

- Infertility's impact on a woman's identity, lineage and status.
- Abraham and Sarah's mistake
- Isaac and Rebekah's response.
- Our timing is different from God's.
- The comparison trap.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- The process allows us to truly appreciate the answer.

2. _____.

Genesis 25:22-28²² The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. ²³ The Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger." ²⁴ When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. ²⁵ The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. ²⁶ After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. [Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them. ²⁷ The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents. ²⁸ Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

What could go wrong?

- The prophecy:
 - * She had twins.
 - * The twins represented two nations.
 - * The nations are meant to be separated.
 - * The younger will be greater than the older.
- Dashed hopes of motherhood: "Why is this happening to me?"
- REMEMBER: Overcoming one trial doesn't exempt us from facing others.
- The solution.

3. _____.

Genesis 27:5-13 ⁴⁵ 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, ⁶ Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "Look, I overheard your father say to your brother Esau, ⁷ 'Bring me some game and prepare me some tasty food to eat, so that I may give you my blessing in the presence of the Lord before I die.' ⁸ Now, my son, listen carefully and do what I tell you: ⁹ Go 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. ¹⁰ Then take it to your father to eat, so that he may give you his blessing before he dies." ¹¹ Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "But my brother Esau is a hairy man while I have smooth skin. ¹² What if my father touches me? I would appear to be tricking him and would bring down a curse on myself rather than a blessing." ¹³ His mother said to him, "My son, let the curse fall on me. Just do what I say; go and get them for me."

- Rebekah's downfall.
- Open handed people vs. Closed handed people.
- Proverbs 11:24 One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.
- Genesis 27:41-45 ⁴¹ Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him. He said to himself, "The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob." 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. ⁴³ Now then, my son, do what I say: Flee at once to my brother Laban in Harran. ⁴⁴ Stay with him for a while until your brother's fury subsides. ⁴⁵ When 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?"
- Rebekah's story does not have to be yours.
- Our role is to guide our children to God, not to be God.
- God is the ultimate parent.

Salvation Prayer:

Dear Jesus, I repent of my sin. Please be my Savior and Lord. In Jesus' Name, Amen