



The Faith of Isaac, Esau, and Jacob

Sermon by Ray Reynolds (2-7-10 - PM)

Text: Hebrews 11:20-21



Introduction: The stories of the Old Testament patriarchs are echoed in the New Testament for a reason. Each story gives us insight into godly living and faithful service. The story of Isaac is told in the Old Testament with less drama than that of his father and sons. His story is overshadowed by that of Abraham, Esau, and Jacob. In fact, Isaac only has center stage for one chapter (Genesis 26). It seems that he didn't like the attention, but his sons did. The trials of Jacob and Esau are throughout the last 25 chapters of the book of Genesis (half the book!). Even throughout the telling of Joseph's story you keep hearing about Jacob. What can we learn from these men? Let's consider their faith

Discussion:

I. The Faith of Isaac

- Isaac had faith in the early stages of his life (Genesis 21)
- Isaac had faith despite being nearly sacrificed (Genesis 22).
- Isaac had faith after burying his mother (Genesis 23).
- Isaac had faith when getting married (Genesis 24).
- Isaac had faith while starting a family (Genesis 25).
- Isaac had faith in his adult life (Genesis 26-27).

II. The Faith of Esau

- Esau had a weak faith (Genesis 25).
- Esau had a wicked brother (Genesis 25, 27).
- Esau became a wealthy man (Genesis 32, 36).
- Esau was a wonderful brother and son (Genesis 33, 36).

III. The Faith of Jacob

- Jacob cheated his brother (Genesis 25, 27).
- Jacob lied to his father (Genesis 27).
- Jacob struggled with his wives (Genesis 30-31).
- Jacob wrestled with his God (Genesis 32).
- Jacob struggled with his children (Genesis 35, 37-38).
- Jacob blessed his grand-children (Genesis 46-47, Hebrews 11:21).

Conclusion: These great Bible stories show us both what to do and what not to do. The bottom line is that you don't have to be perfect to make the Hall of Fame of Faith. All you need is a mustard seed worth of faith! Do you have that kind of faith?

WORD OF THE DAY = "FAITH"