



## TIME OF GRACE®

# *Flawed but Blessed: Why Does God Love Me?*

## Study Notes

### *Summary*

The first story of Jacob in the Bible is a sad sign of things to come. Despite God's promise to bless this younger brother, the "heel-grabber," Jacob uses his intelligence to hustle his older brother. What might seem small, however, starts a pattern of behavior that will ruin Jacob's family and nearly destroy his life. This account warns us of the "small" sins that will become a pattern of something greater. Finally, it serves as a contrast with Jesus, the "older Brother," who chose to give up his birthright of blessing to foolish sinners like us.

- **Genesis 25:19-23:** <sup>19</sup>This is the account of the family line of Abraham's son Isaac. Abraham became the father of Isaac, <sup>20</sup> and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan Aram and sister of Laban the Aramean. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. <sup>23</sup> 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."
- **Genesis 25:24-28:** <sup>24</sup> When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. <sup>25</sup> The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. <sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.
- **Genesis 25:29:** Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished.
- **Genesis 25:30,31:** <sup>30</sup> He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!" (That is why he was also called Edom.) <sup>31</sup> Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright."
- **Genesis 25:32-34:** <sup>32</sup> "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?" <sup>33</sup> But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him,

selling his birthright to Jacob. <sup>34</sup> Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright.

- **Hebrews 12:16:** See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son..
- Don't trade something so \_\_\_\_\_ for something so \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Galatians 5:23:** The fruit of the Spirit is . . . self-control.
- **Romans 9:11-13:** <sup>11</sup> Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God's purpose in election might stand: <sup>12</sup> not by works but by him who calls—she was told, "The older will serve the younger." <sup>13</sup> Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved,"
- **Hebrews 2:11:** So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.
- If self-control is the \_\_\_\_\_, Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_.

## Points to Ponder

1. In what areas of your life do you lack self-control? Examine your words, actions, and thoughts and share your struggles with a close Christian friend.
2. Name three reasons why Jesus is the key to the fruit of self-control. What is it about Jesus that makes us willing to wait for God's will to be done at God's time?
3. List three ways that your self-control is like fruit. (For example, fruit is what comes from roots just like self-control is what comes from Jesus.)

## Homework for Next Week

Read Genesis 27.

*"Here's the paradox of Christian living. We must give up self-control to gain self-control."  
—Andy Mineo*