

“DYSFUNCTION, FORGIVENESS & RECONCILIATION”

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I. DYSFUNCTION (Gen. 25:19-34).

- A. The Birth of Jacob (Gen. 25:19-26).
 - 1. Sibling rivalry started in the womb (Gen. 25:22-23).
- B. The Childhood of Jacob (Gen. 25:27-34).
 - 1. The Dysfunction of Favoritism (Gen. 25:27-28).
 - 2. Esau sells his birthright for some stew (Gen. 25:29-34).
- C. Sibling rivalry into adulthood (Gen. 26:35; chapter 27).
 - 1. Jacob deceives Isaac into getting Esau’s blessing (ch. 27).
 - 2. Esau hated Jacob and planned to kill him (Gen. 27:41).
 - 3. Rebekah sent Jacob to her brother’s (Gen. 27:42-45).
 - 4. There Jacob married Leah & Rachel (Gen. 29).

II. FORGIVENESS (Gen. 31-33).

- A. Dysfunction leads to many forgiveness opportunities!
 - 1. Have you experienced family dysfunction and it’s forgiveness opportunities? Have you learned to forgive?
- B. God finds ways to confront our stuff (Gen. 31:7).
- C. God told Jacob to go home [20 years later] (Gen. 31:13).
- D. Jacob seeks forgiveness from Esau (Gen. 32:3-33:11).
- E. They depart in peace (Gen. 33:12-20).

III. PRINCIPLES OF FORGIVENESS & RECONCILIATION.

- A. We’re commanded to forgive unconditionally (Col. 3:12- 13; Eph. 4:31-32; Matt. 18:21-35; etc.).
- B. Forgiveness is a choice, not an emotion.
- C. Forgiveness Questions:
 - 1. What is forgiveness? Not Denying, Minimizing, Excusing or Justifying the other person’s actions. To let go of past grudges or lingering anger against a person or persons.
 - 2. Does forgiving require forgetting?
 - 3. Does forgiveness also include reconciliation?
 - 4. How can I forgive (Matt. 6:12, 14-15; Mk. 11:25-26)?
 - 5. Do I need to talk to the person I’m forgiving?

CONCLUSION: Is there anyone you need to forgive (Matt. 18:21-35)? Are you willing to forgive?