

Rebekah

"8Now, my son, listen carefully and do what I tell you" Genesis 27:8

NUGGET - The story of Rebekah, Isaac and their twin centers on the word of God to Rebekah when she was pregnant with her boys Esau and Jacob. ([Gen 25:21-23](#)) Having this word of God provides the basis from which Rebekah instructs her youngest son twice with the idea expressed today in Gen 27:8.

Though she had God's word to her that the older son would serve the younger one, she did things that, to us, seem underhanded or outright lies. Read the account of how she orchestrated Jacob, the younger son, into gaining the blessing of his father Isaac and you'll see what I mean. ([Gen 27:1-37](#))

So why are we looking today at this verse and its twin in [Gen 27:42-43](#)? Because the instructions she gives to her son are instructions that we would benefit from. This mother had no instructions from God that we know of to say these things, but we do know what God's word to her was. And she was acting on that word. I agree that it seems at odds with how we see God working in scripture, but God did use these actions of hers to accomplish His ends.

And these instructions of hers are simple, plain and direct:

- Listen carefully... and
- Do what I tell you

These instructions are also found in Jesus' words to the unbelieving Jews in John 10:27, *My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me*. They listen and follow. That's what Jesus said His sheep do. These words echo what Rebekah told her son. And as do Jesus words in John 14:21, *Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me*. Jesus has the same expectation of us that Rebekah had of Jacob, to listen to what He instructs us in and then do what He has commanded us to do.

Now again, I grant that *what* she instructed is not in keeping with God's command to not lie. But even given that, as we have pointed out, God used this to fulfill His word to her when she was pregnant, those many years before. God's ways and means are just that *God's* ways and means, not mans.

But what God does teach us through Rebekah, for our benefit, is to listen carefully and do what He says.

APPLICATION - God gives us His word so that we may know what He wants us to know. As Jacob listened to the words of his mother, so we are to listen to the words of God. And as Jacob did what his mother instructed, so we are to do God's instructions.

1. Pick a small portion of scripture that has been baffling for you and read it over. As you do ask yourself just this one question, what does God want me to listen to and learn about Him in this text?
2. Now look at [John 13:34-35](#) what does Jesus say will be the result of obeying this command?
3. Think of Jacob doing what Rebekah told him. Think of what you are facing in life, what do you understand God would have you do?

PRAY - Seek God for His guidance to both hear His instructions and do as He asks.



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

'HEARING, SHARING AND LIVING THE GOSPEL'

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*Going Deeper together. We meet in the **Fellowship Hall** during the Education Hour for discussion and prayer with all those who're able to come. If you're not able to make it Sunday, please feel free to e-mail me with your comments or questions so that we can have the benefit of sharing them together.*

GOING DEEPER

Read about how Rebekah came to be Isaac's wife in [Gen 24](#). There is much in this story to learn from. Pick out one or two things that stand out for you. Keeping in mind what we talked about in the nugget, what do those things you picked out do to help you in understanding of God and His ways?

In reading this account, what stands out for you regarding Sarah and Rebekah? What similarities or differences do you see in these two women?

Compare this young Rebekah with the Rebekah we see later after she has raised her twin boys. Note her brother's actions and words. Note also the blessing she receives before she goes. Is there anything in her family relationships that may give an indication of the kind of woman she will become?

One of the striking things about this story is the desire and wish of Abraham in regard to the choosing of a wife for his son. In [verses 1-8](#) we see that Abraham wants a wife for his son from the 'old country'. There are good reasons for this. The land in which Abraham now lives is not peopled with those who acknowledge the living God of heaven.

God has promised Abraham the land and to make of his offspring a great nation. So to get a wife for his child of promise, Isaac, Abraham sends to the old country for one. He needs someone who is predisposed to listen to God to help his son. For this he needs someone who shares the values Abraham was brought up with.

Those values are not yet to be found where Abraham and Isaac now live. The life of promise is to be lived and carried out in this new land, but the values must be brought into this land from outside, from the old country. There is a parallel to this in Jesus coming to earth and then in how we are to live.

Jesus has come to the new country from the old. Jesus has come to earth from heaven and brought with Him the values from there. He has brought the promise to earth of God's love and willingness to sacrifice so that His promise would come to pass.

The same is true in all believers; our values come to us not from this land in which we live. Our values come from the old country; they come from heaven to earth. Jesus has brought them with Him, and placed them in our hearts by His Holy Spirit. We live by the promises that God sends to us through Christ on the cross, not by what we see around us here and now. As Rebekah came from the old country to support and aid Isaac as he lives the life of promise in the new land, so Christ lives in us to guide us in our lives here and now; now and forever by God's promise. Peace in Christ, PR.