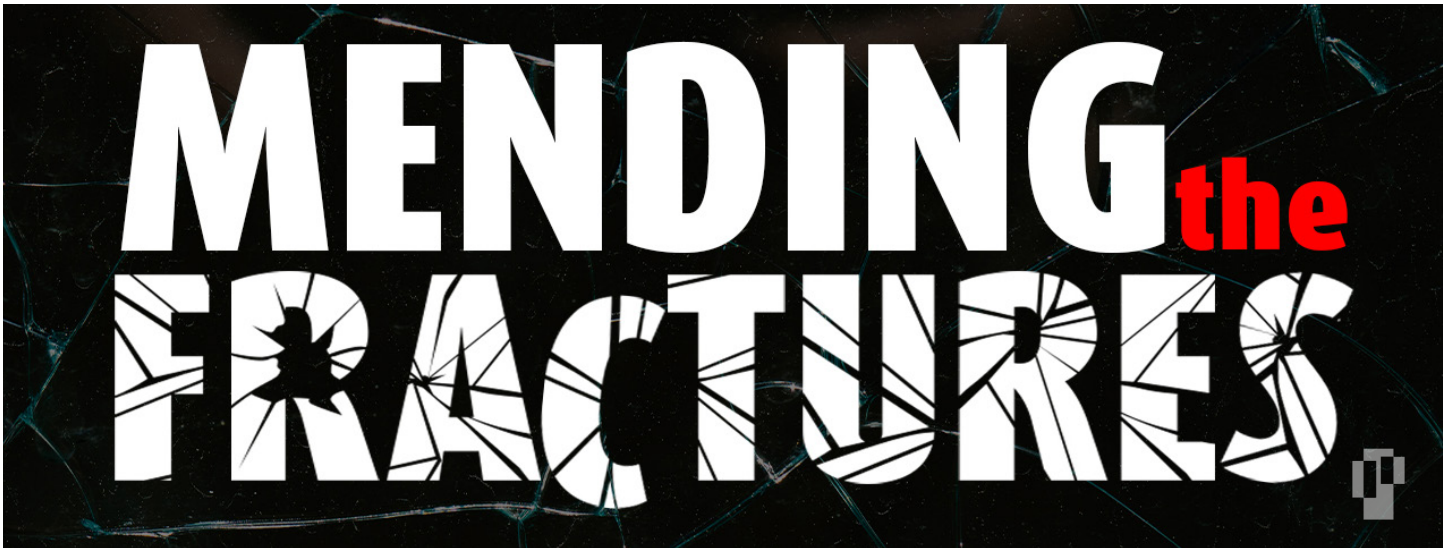

The Week of July 24, 2022
Mending For Peace & Quiet
Jacob & Esau
Conversation Guide

This Week's Take-Aways

- Gentleness: (1 Peter 3:15–16) I am a person of conviction, yet am always mindful of the concerns of others and am under control even when in conflict or frustrated.

Intro Questions

- Have you ever been betrayed by someone close to you?
- Have you ever held a grudge? Had a grudge held against you?
- How do we look on betrayal today? How is it portrayed in movies, books, and TV shows?
    - Why do these type of stories appeal to us?

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Jacob & Esau

Genesis 25:27-34

> *When the boys grew up, Esau became an expert hunter, an outdoorsman, but Jacob was a quiet man who stayed at home. Isaac loved Esau because he had a taste for wild game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.*
>
> *Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field exhausted. He said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, because I'm exhausted." That is why he was also named Edom.*
>
> *Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright."*
>
> *"Look," said Esau, "I'm about to die, so what good is a birthright to me?"*
>
> *Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to Jacob and sold his birthright to him. Then Jacob gave bread and lentil stew to Esau; he ate, drank, got up, and went away. So Esau despised his birthright.'*

- What is a birthright?
- Why did the birthright belong to Esau?
- Who's "fault" was it that Esau lost his birthright?
    - Did Esau understand the gravity of giving up his birthright?
- What do you think Jacob and Esau's relationship was like after this?
- Have you ever lost something that you thought was rightfully yours?

Read all of Genesis 27 if you are unfamiliar with the story of Jacob stealing Esau's blessing

Genesis 27:41-46

> *Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him. And Esau determined in his heart, "The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob."*
>
> *When the words of her older son Esau were reported to Rebekah, she summoned her younger son Jacob and said to him, "Listen, your brother Esau is consoling himself by planning to kill you. So now, my son, listen to me. Flee at once to my brother Laban in Haran, and stay with him for a few days until your brother's anger subsides — until your brother's rage turns away from you and he forgets what you have done to him. Then I will send for you and bring you back from there. Why should I lose you both in one day?"*
>
> *So Rebekah said to Isaac, "I'm sick of my life because of these Hethite girls. If Jacob marries someone from around here, like these Hethite girls, what good is my life?" '*

- What is a blessing? How was it different from the birthright?
- Why did the blessing belong to Esau?
- Who's "fault" was it that Esau lost his blessing?
- Do you think Jacob could have taken the birthright and left the blessing to Esau? Why did he want both?

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- What do you think Jacob and Esau's relationship was like after this?
- Did you receive a blessing from your parent/guardian?
    - Have you given a blessing to your children?
    - Check out The Blessing: Giving the Gift o Unconditional Love & Acceptance by John Trent, Gary Smalley, & Kari Trent Stageberg to learn more.
- Jacob and Esau were 40 years old when Jacob stole his blessing. Jacob then spent 20 years with Laban before returning.

Genesis 33

Now Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming toward him with four hundred men. So he divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and the two slave women. He put the slaves and their children first, Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph last. He himself went on ahead and bowed to the ground seven times until he approached his brother.

But Esau ran to meet him, hugged him, threw his arms around him, and kissed him. Then they wept. When Esau looked up and saw the women and children, he asked, "Who are these with you?"

He answered, "The children God has graciously given your servant." Then the slaves and their children approached him and bowed down. Leah and her children also approached and bowed down, and then Joseph and Rachel approached and bowed down.

So Esau said, "What do you mean by this whole procession I met?"

"To find favor with you, my lord," he answered. 9 "I have enough, my brother," Esau replied. "Keep what you have."

But Jacob said, "No, please! If I have found favor with you, take this gift from me. For indeed, I have seen your face, and it is like seeing God's face, since you have accepted me. Please take my present that was brought to you, because God has been gracious to me and I have everything I need." So Jacob urged him until he accepted.

Then Esau said, "Let's move on, and I'll go ahead of you."

Jacob replied, "My lord knows that the children are weak, and I have nursing flocks and herds. If they are driven hard for one day, the whole herd will die. Let my lord go ahead of his servant. I will continue on slowly, at a pace suited to the livestock and the children, until I come to my lord at Seir."

Esau said, "Let me leave some of my people with you."

But he replied, "Why do that? Please indulge me, my lord."

That day Esau started on his way back to Seir, but Jacob went to Succoth. He built a house for himself and shelters for his livestock; that is why the place was called Succoth.

After Jacob came from Paddan-aram, he arrived safely at Shechem in the land of Canaan and camped in front of the city. He purchased a section of the field where he had pitched his tent from the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, for a hundred pieces of silver. And he set up an altar there and called it God, the God of Israel.

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- Why do you think Jacob put his children and wives at the very front of his processional to meet Esau?
    - Why did Jacob send gifts to Esau? Was this a bribe or a sign of his change of heart?
- What was Esau's reaction to Jacob?
- What does this tell us about Esau's heart? Has he changed during their time apart? Was it the gifts that he received?
- What did Jacob do after they met? Where did he settle in relation to Esau?
- What can we learn from Esau's reaction? Jacob's?
- What do healthy boundaries look like in our modern relationships?
- Why are boundaries still necessary, even in reconciled relationships?

Romans 12:14

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Romans 12:17-21

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Give careful thought to do what is honorable in everyone's eyes. If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Friends, do not avenge yourselves; instead, leave room for God's wrath, because it is written, Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay, says the Lord. But If your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him something to drink. For in so doing you will be heaping fiery coals on his head. Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.

Colossians 3:12-13

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive.

- What if there is no reconciliation? What should our response be when someone doesn't respond positively to our attempt to reconcile?
- Does your forgiveness of the other person rely on them receiving it?
- Does a believer have any right to withhold forgiveness from someone? Why or why not?

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