

Next Week Sermon

Gethsemane: The Struggle of Obedience

Genesis 26:36-46

PREACHER
William Ngeow

October 2, 2022

The Theology of Vocation and Work

John Lee

October 9, 2022

Happy Are Those Whose Delight Is In the Law of the Lord

Psalm 1

PREACHER

Victor Ong

3 of the hardest words to say:

"I was wrong."

If we are not able to understand why we are motivated to believe a certain truth, or where our convictions comes from, it is unlikely we will change our minds.

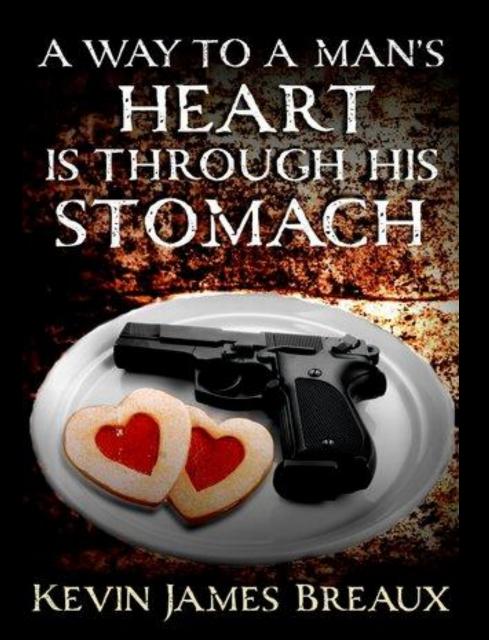
Food, deception and the will of God - Part 2: How deception works

Genesis 27: 1-45

- 27 When Isaac was old and his eyes were so weak that he could no longer see, he called for Esau his older son and said to him, "My son." "Here I am," he answered.
- ² Isaac said, "I am now an old man and don't know the day of my death. ³ Now then, get your equipment—your quiver and bow—and go out to the open country to hunt some wild game for me. ⁴ Prepare me the kind of tasty food I like and bring it to me to eat, so that I may give you my blessing before I die."

 ⁵ Now Rebekah was listening as Isaac spoke to <u>his son</u> Esau. When

Esau left for the open country to hunt game and bring it back, 6 Rebekah said to <u>her son</u> Jacob, "Look, I overheard your father say to your brother Esau, 7 'Bring me some game and prepare me some tasty food to eat, so that I may give you my blessing in the presence of the LORD before I die.' 8 Now, my son, listen carefully and do what I tell you: 9 Go out to the flock and bring me two choice young goats, so I can prepare some tasty food for your father, just the way he likes it. 10 Then take it to your father to eat_so that he



The way to a mans heart is found three ways: his stomach, his mind, and his pants somee cards

How deception works

1. Deception exploits your weakness.

Deception exploits your weakness.

- Struggling with loneliness.
- Going through period of difficult financial stress.
- Soft hearted by nature.
- Gullible by nature.
- Anxious by nature.
- Want to fit in badly.
- Struggling with insecurity.



Gloria Rose Blanchard and Dee Dee Blanchard



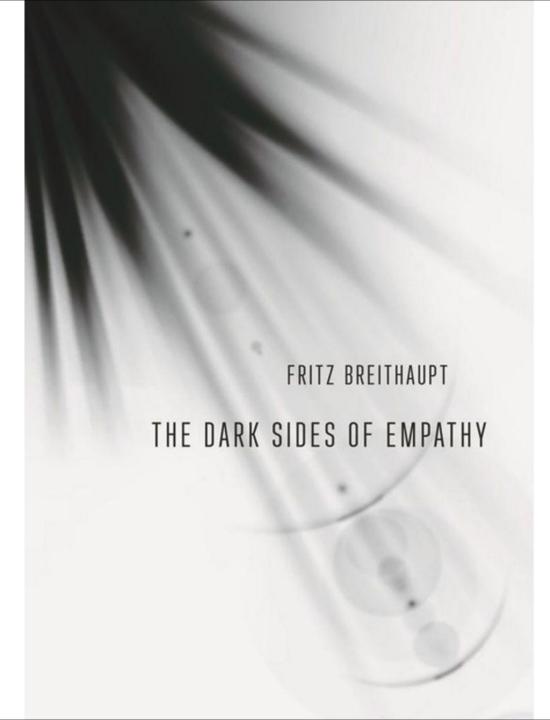
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- ¹³ His mother said to him, "My son, let the curse fall on me. Just do what I say; go and get them for me."
- ¹⁴ So he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and she prepared some tasty food, just the way his father liked it. ¹⁵ Then Rebekah took the best clothes of Esau her older son, which she had in the house, and put them on her younger son Jacob. ¹⁶ She also covered his hands and the smooth part of his neck with the goatskins. ¹⁷ Then she handed to her son Jacob the tasty food and the bread she had made.
- 18 He went to his father and said, "My father."
- "Yes, my son," he answered. "Who is it?"
- 19 Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat some of my game, so that you

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- ²² Jacob went close to his father Isaac, who touched him and said, "The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau." ²³ He did not recognize him, for his hands were hairy like those of his brother Esau; so he proceeded to bless him. ²⁴ "Are you really my son Esau?" he asked.
- "I am," he replied.
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- Jacob brought it to him and he ate; and he brought some wine and he drank. ²⁶ Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come here, my son, and kiss me."

²⁷ So he went to him and kissed him. When Isaac caught the smell of his clothes, he blessed him and said, "Ah, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field that the LORD has blessed.

How deception works

- 1. Deception exploits your weakness.
- 2. Deception weaponizes empathy.



Empathy is typically viewed as a positive trait because it allows people to treat each other with understanding and kindness. Empathy allows us to notice when others are feeling down. Empathy also helps us accurately formulate strategies to make those people feel better. Fortunately, most people use their empathic capacity for <u>altruism</u>, care, and cooperation.

However, that same skill can be turned into a weapon of deceit and manipulation.

https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-nature-deception/202002/is-empathy-the-key-deception

In order to effectively hoodwink someone, a con artist must be able to deeply understand their victims. The best con artists are experts at discovering what motivates their marks, whether it be greed, <u>loneliness</u>, compassion, or despair. Once they get inside our heads and realize which buttons to push, they have essentially cracked the code that will allow them to shake us down.

It is not just the con artists who use empathy to deceive. We all lie and deceive from time to time. People lie to avoid <u>punishment</u>, to take advantage, to spare someone's feelings, for retribution, and many other reasons. On average, most people lie once or twice a day (<u>DePaulo et al., 1996</u>). When people are more attentive to the experience of emotion in others, they are more effective at telling lies (<u>Elaad & Reizer</u>, 2015).





²⁰ Isaac asked his son, "How did you find it so quickly, my son?" "The LORD *your God* gave me success," he replied.

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die."

4 "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Genesis 3:1-3

Note the similarity between both stories.

How deception works

- 1. Deception exploits your weakness.
- 2. Deception weaponizes empathy.
- 3. Deception uses truth as a base to tell lies.

What is one of the biggest group of people that exploits the weaknesses of others, weaponizes empathy and tells half truths?

The church







- ³⁰ After Isaac finished blessing him, and Jacob had scarcely left his father's presence, his brother Esau came in from hunting. ³¹ He too prepared some tasty food and brought it to his father. Then he said to him, "My father, please sit up and eat some of my game, so that you may give me your blessing."
- 32 His father Isaac asked him, "Who are you?"
- "I am your son," he answered, "your firstborn, Esau."
- ³³ Isaac trembled violently and said, "Who was it, then, that hunted game and brought it to me? I ate it just before you came and I blessed him—and indeed he will be blessed!"
- When Esau heard his father's words, he burst out with a loud and bitter cry and said to his father, "Bless me—me too, my father!" But he said, "Your brother came deceitfully and took your blessing."

- Esau said, "Isn't he rightly named Jacob? This is the second time he has taken advantage of me: He took my birthright, and now he's taken my blessing!" Then he asked, "Haven't you reserved any blessing for me?"
- ³⁷ Isaac answered Esau, "I have made him lord over you and have made all his relatives his servants, and I have sustained him with grain and new wine. So what can I possibly do for you, my son?"

38 Esau said to his father, "Do you have only one blessing, my father? Bless me too my father!" Then Esau went aloud

Bless me too, my father!" Then Esau wept aloud.

41 Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him. He said to himself, "The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob."

How deception works

- 1. Deception exploits your weakness.
- 2. Deception weaponizes empathy.
- 3. Deception uses truth as a base to tell lies.
- 4. Deception blinds you to spiritual recklessness.

¹⁴ Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. 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. 17 Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. Even though he sought the blessing with tears, he could not change what he had done.

Hebrews 12:14-18

Esau has a victim mindset

- Esau's perspective of the issue: "My brother deceived me twice."
- God's perspective of the issue: "You despised your birthright."



You don't have to necessarily hold grudges or be bitter to have a root of bitterness.

¹⁶ You yourselves know how we lived in Egypt and how we passed through the countries on the way here. ¹⁷ You saw among them their detestable images and idols of wood and stone, of silver and gold. ¹⁸ Make sure there is no man or woman, clan or tribe among you today whose heart turns away from the LORD our God to go and worship the gods of those nations; make sure there is no root among you that produces such bitter poison.

¹⁹ When such a person hears the words of this oath and they invoke a blessing on themselves, thinking, "I will be safe, even though I persist in going my own way," they will bring disaster on the watered land as well as the dry.

Deuteronomy 29.16-19



Consumer Christianity is now normative. The consumer Christian is one who utilizes the grace of God for forgiveness and the services of the church for special occasions, but does not give his or her life and innermost thoughts, feelings, and intentions over to the kingdom of the heavens. Such Christians are not inwardly transformed and not committed to it.

Dallas Willard

www.idlehearts.com

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- 28 May God give you heaven's dew and earth's richness— an abundance of grain and new wine.
- ²⁹ May nations serve you and peoples bow down to you.
- Be lord over your brothers, and may the sons of your mother bow down to you.
- May those who curse you be cursed and those who bless you be blessed."

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- 39 His father Isaac answered him,
- "Your dwelling will be away from the earth's richness, away from the dew of heaven above.
- 40 You will live by the sword and you will serve your brother.
- But when you grow restless, you will throw his yoke from off your neck."

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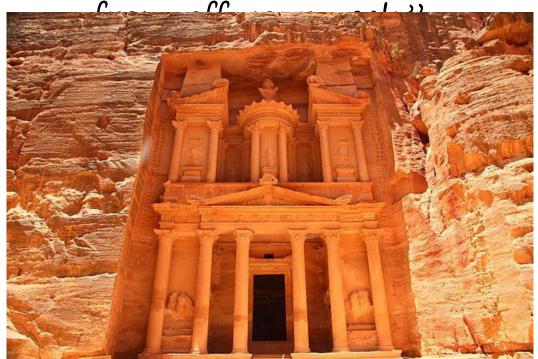
- 42 When Rebekah was told what her older son Esau had said, she sent for her younger son Jacob and said to him, "Your brother Esau is planning to avenge himself by killing you. 43 Now then, my son, do what I say: Flee at once to my brother Laban in Harran. 44 Stay with him for a while until your brother's fury subsides. 45 When your brother is no longer angry with you and forgets what you did to him, I'll send word for you to come back from there. Why should I lose both of you in one day?"
- Then Rebekah said to Isaac, "I'm disgusted with living because of these Hittite women. If Jacob takes a wife from among the women of this land, from Hittite women like these, my life will not be worth living."

28 So Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him. Then he commanded him: "Do not marry a Canaanite woman. 2 Go at once to Paddan Aram, to the house of your mother's father Bethuel. Take a wife for yourself there, from among the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother. 3 May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and increase your numbers until you become a community of peoples. 4 May he give you and your descendants the blessing given to Abraham, so that you may take possession of the land where you now reside as a foreigner, the land God gave to Abraham." 5 Then Isaac sent Jacob on his way, and he went to Paddan Aram, to Laban son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, who was the mother of Jacob and Esau.

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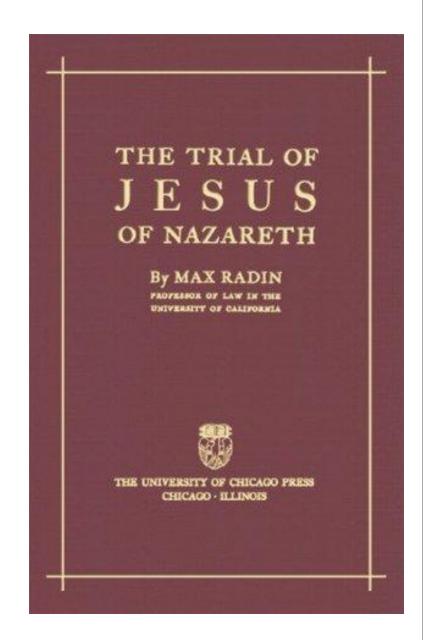
- 1. Deception exploits your weakness.
- 2. Deception weaponizes empathy.
- 3. Deception uses truth as a base to tell lies.
- 4. Deception blinds you to spiritual recklessness.
- 5. God can even use man's deception to ensure His will is done.

2 brothers – the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent



The biggest deception in history – the trial of Jesus Christ

- 1) The Snitch identifies Jesus and betrays him, but later refuses to testify.
- 2) Jesus pleads the Fifth.
- 3) No Witness Corroboration.
- 4) Politics influences criminal law.
- 5) Death Penalty for slaves and foreigners, not Romans



Sometimes it is so difficult to believe hard truths, we rather believe lies