

*the*  
**MESSY LIFE**  
*of*  
**JACOB**  
*from GRASPING to LEANING*

*Common Themes of*  
*Messy Lives* | SEPT 10



## GENESIS 25:19–34

<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."

<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 skilled 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.

<sup>29</sup>Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. <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." <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.

- God  
is involved .

- Family  
impacts us .

- We hunger for  
importance .

- **KEY QUESTION:**  
**Where are you grasping instead of leaning?**

**RENEWAL:** We all grasp for something. Can you identify your yearnings? What do you need most: encouragement, freedom or sensitivity? Do you believe that God is in all parts of your story? The messy and the clean? In what ways are you trying to be self-sufficient rather than dependent on God? How are you trying to short cut the process of gaining a blessing rather than God working over a period of time?



Today's message:  
Neil Tomba

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