

Old Man Illustrated (#2)

(1 Corinthians 10:11) Now these things happened to them, OT Believer's (OT bel's) as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

One reason God preserved the OT scriptures is that He uses the lives of OT bel's as examples for us who live in NT times. Their lives serve as examples of faith and obedience (Heb 11) and as examples of sin and failure (Jacob).

The purpose of this study (Tues) and the next (Wed) is to illustrate the function of the OM belief / behavior system and to discuss our options as we struggle with the same types of temptation.

Using OT to Instruct us in NT – Handle with Care

- A. OT believers operated under a different spiritual system than we do in the church age.
- B. We will be looking at their decisions looking for the beliefs they were choosing that motivated their decisions – Old sin Nature, OM beliefs, sin, human good & evil never changes
- C. Looking at their options we have to superimpose church age concepts onto their lives so that we in the church age can see our options and make spiritual decisions.

OM Patterns of Importance – Common Patterns of Whole Human Race

- A. **Divinely Designed Needs** – The psycho-social needs of man as designed by God
Love – conditional & unconditional; affection, wanted, desired, valued, cared about
Contribution – able to pos. impact others; power to make a difference; assets to give
Approval – recognition of contribution, praise and appreciation for pos impact & giving
Belonging – Accepted into a group; part of a whole; identity with & within a group
 - Core motivators of the soul; root cause of all human behavior – meet our needs
 - We experience our needs as desires, longings, yearnings – desire motivates us to act
 - OM builds belief/strategy/behavior system intended to meet these by human ability;
 - NM builds a belief/strategy/behavior system allowing God to meet them by grace**Ex: Love** – OM seeks love based on human assets: beauty, personality, power, possessions; NM trusts & waits on God to provide others to love us because He loves us
- B. **Beliefs** – we develop ideas about what things in life will meet our needs = happiness
 - We attach our faith to objects we believe will meet our needs**Ex:** What will cause others to love me? What skills must develop to be able to contribute so that others will recognize it, appreciate it and praise me for it?
- C. **Strategies** – plan/methods of relating/others – induce others to give what need/desire
Ex: Love/Mate – attract, entice à foster and induce commitment à marriage
Ex: Materialism/security – persuasion skills; LT plan to amass wealth; retirement plan
- D. **Behaviors** – actions as the natural result of needs/desires, beliefs about what will meet our needs & strategies designed to involve others in what we believe will meet our needs
 - The verbal & overt always result from what is happening in the mind & heart.
 - Our beliefs, expectations and relational approach control our verbal and overt actions
 - To permanently change the outside, we must permanently change the inside

Jacob

1. God's prophetic word about Jacob ruling over Esau – Gen 25:33

Genesis 25:23 And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb; and two peoples shall be separated from your body; and one people shall be stronger than the other; And the older shall serve the younger."

- a. Two nations/peoples – Esau: Edom & Edomites; Jacob: Israel & Israelites
- b. Elder will serve the younger – God foresees that Jacob will possess the birthright
 - Jacob is a believer in Christ while Esau rejects the gospel message

2. Jacob's name describes his OM belief system and the way he lived his life.

Jacob – Usurper, one who takes the place of another by trickery and / or deceit.

Gen 25:26 – grasping Esau's heel – trying to pull him back to take his place

He lived up to his name by what he believed would meet his needs and his relational strategies, the way he conducted himself in even his closest relationships.

- The early part of his life sees Jacob persuading Esau to give him his material assets.
- He persuaded Esau to trade his birthright privileges for a meal of red stew.
- He and his mother tricked his father into giving him the blessing of the firstborn.

Jacob's beliefs:

1. He believed that what he wanted was more important than anything else in life.
2. He believed that getting what he wanted would make him happy.
3. He believed that others existed to provide him with what he wanted
4. He believed that what he wanted justified any means necessary to get it

Jacob – Strategies

1. He related with others from a selfish, materialistic agenda.
2. Jacob would have no time for you unless you had something he wanted.
3. Everything he said would be intended to set you up to take advantage of you
4. He would never reveal his true self or true agenda – if he took a sudden liking to you it was because he had discovered something you had that he wanted.
5. He was totally conditional, yet he didn't give to get back, he lied to get it all

3. The two boys grew up in a home where the parents played favorites – Gen 25:28

Esau – hunter, outdoorsman – Isaac enjoyed Esau and preferred him over Jacob

Jacob – quiet, inside the tents – Jacob stayed with the women; Rebekah preferred Jacob

- a. Parental favoritism creates an environment for competition for love among siblings.
- b. God designed children to be loved by both mother & father – healthy foundation
- c. When one or the other shows preference, it causes the others to feel left out.
- d. Jacob adopted this parental style from his parents and use it to raise his own children
 - This parental failure almost destroyed Jacob's children – but for God's grace

Beliefs - Isaac & Rebekah

1. The both believed that the way they felt about their children justified preferential treatment of their individual favorites.
2. Neither of them seemed to understand, believe or be concerned about how their favoritism was influencing their children.
3. Both parents believed that they could allow how they felt to guide their behavior as parents and everything would somehow turn out alright.
4. Rebekah believed that influencing Jacob to lie and steal was acceptable as long as he was able to gain material wealth.

4. Jacob persuades Esau to sell him his firstborn birthright Gen 25:29-34

Jacob's mind-set was to look for opportunities to take advantage of his brother
29-30 Esau was famished – weak, lightheaded from hunger

- 31 – First sell me your birthright – your firstborn privileges – double portion
- 32 – I am about to die – what good is my birthright at this moment?
- 33 – Swear to me first – make a legal binding oath; verbal contract
- 34 – Swore, ate drank, left – despised – regarded his birthright with contempt

Heb 12:16 – Esau was a godless man who had no respect for his genetic lineage

Beliefs – Esau

1. Esau believed immediate comfort was more important than his long term future
2. He was so focused on immediate discomfort that he was willing to give away his future as the firstborn to gain immediate relief.
3. He believed that the discomfort he was experiencing was so unacceptable that any price was worth paying to escape from it.
 - Addicts – when denying self to escape an addiction there is an experience of discomfort for a time – refuse to suffer the discomfort and give back in to ease it
 - Believe in that moment that freedom from the addiction is not worth the suffering
 - Believe that freedom from immediate discomfort is worth being addicted and the negative consequences that come from the addiction.

Strategies – Esau

1. Esau was preoccupied with his own immediate gratification and he related based on any gratification others might be able to give him.
2. He never considered any long term consequences of what he said or did.
3. He was honest, straight forward, asked what he wanted and said what he meant
4. He was probably likeable but self focused – what you see is what you get

Beliefs – Jacob

1. Jacob has the belief system of a predator that looks for weakness in others so that he might take advantage of them for his own selfish benefit.
2. He believes that his material gain is how his happiness will be achieved.
3. He believes that others are only there for him to shake down and use.
4. He does not believe that helping his brother, protecting his brother from his own weakness has any value for him.
5. He believes that he must hide his own weakness and exploit the weaknesses of others for his own material gain.
6. At this point the only person he “loves” is his mother who has made him her favorite and has taught him to look for every opportunity for material gain even at the expense of his closest family members.

4. Rebekah & Isaac schemed to steal the Father’s blessing. Gen 27:1-40

The blessing was a verbal contract passing down the leadership of the family – usually to the firstborn male child – 27:37 I have made him Lord over you and all his relatives

- Elaborate deceit including a lie about identity with a costume of goatskin

Beliefs – Rebekah & Jacob

1. She believed that securing material wealth for Jacob would give him an advantage.
2. She could have believed in family unity, honor, integrity but she trusted wealth
3. Neither of them believed family, love or fidelity was of any importance
4. She convinced Jacob to enter into the deceit – 27:11 Jacob’s concern – getting caught
5. Jacob believed he should please his mother in any way she asked of him
6. They both believed that avoiding the truth, running from consequences and seeking safety at any cost was the appropriate way of handling life situations.