

Unqualified - Jacob

Video Intro called The March of the Unqualified.

***We continue our series called Unqualified.

Each week we will be picking a significant person in the scriptures and examining their life. We're doing this for 2 reasons:

1. We'll find out that, like you and I, each of the major people in scripture (with the exception of Jesus) had flaws. Sometimes REALLY BIG flaws.
2. We'll also find out that, in each instance, God didn't give up on them and despite their problems, God didn't consider them unqualified to serve Him.

God doesn't call the qualified. He qualifies the called.

***Review

Part one we talked about Peter and how God doesn't see us as in our failure, but rather sees us in our God-inspired potential.

Part 2 was about Jonah, and we found that Jonah suffered from PMS. He was prideful, moody and self-centered. In other words, his attitude stunk, but God used him anyway!

***Today we are going to look at a man in the OT by the name of Jacob.

***Genesis 25 tells of the story of Isaac's 2 sons, Esau and Jacob.

19 Now these are the records of the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son:
Abraham became the father of Isaac;

20 and Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife.

21 Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD answered him and Rebekah his wife conceived.

22 But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is so, why then am I this way?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.

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

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***24 When her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb.

25 Now the first came forth red, all over like a hairy garment; and they named him Esau.

26 Afterward his brother came forth with his hand holding on to Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob; and Isaac was sixty years old when she gave birth to them.

27 When the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the field, but Jacob was a peaceful man, living in tents.

28 Now Isaac loved Esau, because he had a taste for game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

***2 things against Jacob from his birth:

***1. He was born second.

Birthright – The double portion of the inheritance from Isaac that traditionally goes to the oldest son of the family.

***2. He was not his father's favorite.

Esau's passion was the hunt and he was considered a man of the wild.

Jacob, on the other hand, spent all of his time with his momma, learning the business of the family... sheep herding. He became a crafty business man, skilled at finding opportunities and exploiting them.

It was the favoritism of his parents that drove Jacob to envy Esau, and Esau to disregard what was important.

Parents, if you want to create strife in your children, show favoritism of one of them over the others.

Children will vie for the attention of the parent they are not getting it from.

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***29 When Jacob had cooked stew, Esau came in from the field and he was famished;

30 and Esau said to Jacob, "Please let me have a swallow of that red stuff there, for I am famished." Therefore his name was called Edom (which means red).

31 But Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright."

32 Esau said, "Behold, I am about to die; so of what *use* then is the birthright to me?"

33 And Jacob said, "First swear to me"; so he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.

34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew; and he ate and drank, and rose and went on his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Now Esau's passion was always the hunt. Nothing wrong with passions, hobbies, loves, interests, but when you let those interests consume you as Esau did, you could end up losing that which God has ordained for you.

Folks, never let your passions (those things that make you feel good) take the place of God in your life.

And never ever, ever, ever make important decisions when you're weakened.

When you are weakened it is more difficult for you to see beyond your immediate need.

OK, so next God moves Isaac Gerar because of a famine in the land, Isaac finds water in wells that were already in the land and has to move around because the people already there get mad that he's taking what they consider to be there water. He finally makes a covenant with Abemilech, king of the Philistines and settles in a place in Gerar.

This covers a span of years that Esau and Jacob are now 40 years old and it is here that Esau finds his wives from the women of the Hitites and Momma and Daddy are not happy.

***Genesis 26

34 When Esau was forty years old he married Judith the daughter of Beerli the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite;

35 and they brought grief to Isaac and Rebekah.

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***Genesis 27

Now next Jacob does the unthinkable.

***Genesis 28

10 Then Jacob departed from Beersheba and went toward Haran.

11 He came to a certain place and spent the night there, because the sun had set; and he took one of the stones of the place and put it under his head, and lay down in that place.

12 He had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants.

14 "Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

15 "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it."

17 He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."