

## STUDY TWENTY FIVE

# DON'T BARGAIN WITH GOD

## Genesis 27:41—28:22

### Introduction

Esau held a grudge against Jacob for cheating him of his father's blessing. He had only to wait until his father's death and then he would repay his brother. But God had other plans. As Jacob flees from his brother the Lord meets him in dream and reveals himself to him for the first time.

### Questions For Discussion

1.a) What was Esau thinking of doing to his brother (27:41)?

b) What does it mean to hold a grudge against someone?

c) If we are bitter about something how can we get rid of the bitter root? (See Eph. 4:31-32 & Heb. 12:15)

2. What was Rebekah's advice to Jacob (27:42-45)?

3. What is the difference between the blessing Isaac gave Jacob here and the blessing he gave him in the last story (28:3-4)? (Compare with 27:27-29. Note: Isaac at last blesses Jacob with the specific blessing of inheriting the land that God had promised to Abraham.)

4. What was Esau's last, desperate attempt to get Isaac's blessing (28:6-9)?

5.a) What did God show Jacob in his dream (28:12-13)?

b) What did God promise to Jacob in the dream (28:13-15)?

c) In what way is the Son of man God's stairway? (See Jn. 1:51)

6.a) What vow did Jacob make to God (28:20-22)?

b) Is it all right for people to bargain with God?

c) If we want God to do something for us what should we do?

d) Is God obligated to answer our prayers?

e) What should our attitude be when we pray? (See Jas. 4:3)

f) What does Jacob's vow tell us about his faith?

### **For Further Thought And Action**

Do you have any resentment against anyone? Pray for God's help to forgive that person and pray for God's blessing on him.

### **Memory Verse**

When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

James 4:3