



Part 2 - October 8, 2017

## TEACHING OUTLINE

### Brothers and Birthrights

- marking time in the text, these are people living real lives...

### Toxic Masculinity

- men's identity encouraged to be defined by power, constraint, dominance
- Esau's skill pointed out as masculine traits
- Jacob as content - contrasted against Esau's just-under-the-surface toxic masculinity

### A Bowl of Stew

- firstborn rights and a lot of extra daily benefits
- we all trade cheaply - end up regretting and loathing what was once a source of life for us

### Divine Subversion

- our imaginations can see even our missteps as opportunities for Divine encounter.

## Read - Genesis 25:27-34

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Do you have siblings? Did you fight when you were kids? What are your relationships like now?
2. Was there anything said this week that you disagreed with?
3. Where do you recognize toxic masculinity in the world around you? Have you noticed these tendencies in yourself or in those close to you?
4. Did anything that was said make you think differently about God or yourself?
5. Can you share a personal example of a moment from your life where you may have "traded cheaply" on who you really are - and ended up regretting or loathing yourself of the situation?

## **BENEDICTION/PRAYER:**

Gracious God...

We are present to your goodness in this text  
today...

how you have drawn near to us in our attention to  
culture and word and meaning.

But we also confess that, like this story, our lives are  
marked by pain.

Pain some of us cause when we live from  
misguided conceptions of what it means to be  
masculine in the world.

Pain some of us receive from the manipulative  
powers present in our everyday experience.

These things we offer to you...

Help us to be mindful of your great love for the weak  
and wayward tendencies of our hearts.

Give us grace to see and accept your gentle  
subversion of our projected selves...

how you work your tender mercy into the fabric of  
our mistakes.

We ask in the name of Christ...Amen.