

No Perfect Family

by Femi Adedoyin

Many have questioned why God used such dysfunctional, messed up families in the Bible. I answer this by saying that every family is a messed up family in various ways. No one is perfect or righteous, no not one. God had to use messed up families ever since the fall.

As good at disciplining, praying and fasting for our children as you may be, you are still messed up here and there. One of my favorite examples is seen in the union between Isaac and Rebecca. Rebecca was a choice wife for Isaac. Abraham made sure his chosen son is particularly married to the right woman, but how did that played out? Isaac was still messed up and so was Rebecca.

Genesis 25:20-21 And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebecca to wife the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Pedanaram the sister to Laban the Syrian. And Isaac intreated the Lord for his wife because he was barren and the Lord was intreated of him and Rebecca his wife conceived. This is messed up.

Abraham found the wife through his servant, a perfect, choice wife but unfortunately barren. Abraham was still alive and Isaac had to pray for twenty years for Rebecca to conceive. Could you imagine what Abraham went through expecting the promise of God to bless the nations through the seed of Isaac? This was a huge twenty-year problem. These were all messed up people like you and I. The problem didn't stop there. Rebecca had twins who rivaled each other from the womb. They also messed up. Esau despised his birthright and promise. He'd given into his appetite much like his father Isaac.

Jacob the heel grabber couldn't care less about the promise of God without devising a crooked plan to make it come to pass. These were all just messed up people. The question is not whether you and I are messed up or not but rather in which areas are we messed up. No teaching, mythological status family, great education, wonderful parenting, system or beating can save you from being messed up.

To negate the reality of the fall of man at the garden would be idolatry. We are instructed not to spare the rod. Yet no amount of whipping in the world would have changed who Jacob is inside. All our systematic ideas put together could ever undo the fall of man. Sure we must do all we can, but it would not save us from being messed up. Proper discipline may reduce it but you will remain messed up. God invading our lives is all that we need. Children can appear innocent outwardly They

could be very polite and we thank God for that, but I can't buy the lie they are not as messed up as everybody else. They're like whited sepulchers with rottenness inside without Jesus Christ. We need more than outward obedience and a great outward marriage. This is what the Lord is teaching us in all these bible stories.

Psalm 127:1 Except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it. Except the Lord build the city the watchman wake but in vain.

We all need the gospel. The Gospel is not merely the ABC's of Christianity but A to Z of our precious faith. Children need it well as grown-ups. No matter how great, rich, poor, powerful or not you are you still messed up and all of us need Christ to be saved. But the good news is that God used messed up people and turned their messes into good news messages. It's all about Jesus Christ. Not you. Have a great weekend