

בראשית כ"ז:ה'-י'

וּרְבִקָּה שָׁמְעַת בְּדִבְרֵי יִצְחָק אֶל-עֵשָׂו בְּגוֹ וַיֵּלֶךְ עֲשׂוֹ הַשָּׂדֶה לְצוּד צִיד לְהָבִיא: וּרְבִקָּה אָמְרָה אֶל-יַעֲקֹב בְּנָה לֵאמֹר הִנֵּה שָׁמַעְתִּי אֶת-אָבִיךָ מְדַבֵּר אֶל-עֵשָׂו אָחִיךָ לֵאמֹר: הָבִיָּאָה לִי צִיד וַעֲשֵׂה-לִי מִטְעָמִים וְאֶכְלָה וְאֶבְרַכְכָּה לִפְנֵי ה' לִפְנֵי מוֹתִי: וְעַתָּה בְנִי שָׁמַע בְּקוֹלִי לְאָשֶׁר אָנִי מַצְנֶה אֹתָךְ: לִדְגֹּל אֶל-הַצֹּאן וְקָח-לִי מִשָּׁם שְׁנֵי גְדֵי עֲזִים טָבִים וְאֶעֱשֶׂה אֹתָם מִטְעָמִים לְאָכִיד בְּאֶשֶׁר אֲהָב: וְהִבֵּאתָ לְאָכִיד וְאָכַל בְּעֶבֶר אֲשֶׁר יִבְרַכְךָ לִפְנֵי מוֹתִי:

בראשית כ"ז:ל"ד

כְּשָׁמַע עֵשָׂו אֶת-דִּבְרֵי אָבִיו וַיִּצְעַק צָעֲקָה גְדֹלָה וַמָּרָה עַד-מְאֹד וַיֹּאמֶר לְאָבִיו בְּרַכְנִי גַם-אֲנִי אָבִי:

Genesis 27:5-10

Rivkah had been listening as Yitzchak spoke to his son Esav. When Esav had gone out into the open to hunt game to bring home, Rivkah said to her son Yaakov, "I overheard your father speaking to your brother Esav, saying, 'Bring me some game and prepare a dish for me to eat, that I may bless you, with Hashem's approval, before I die.' Now, my son, listen carefully as I instruct you. Go to the flock and fetch me two choice kids, and I will make of them a dish for your father, such as he likes. Then take it to your father to eat, in order that he may bless you before he dies."

Genesis 27:34

When Esav heard his father's words, he burst into wild and bitter sobbing, and said to his father, "Bless me too, Father!"

תנחומא , ויצא י"א:

כל הלילה היתה עשה עצמה כרחל, כיון שעמד בבקר והנה היא לאה, אמר לה בת הרמאי למה רמית אותי, אמרה לו ואתה למה רמית אביך, כשאמר לך האתה זה בני עשו, ואמרת לו אנכי עשו בכורך, ואתה אומר למה רימיתני, ואביך לא אמר בא אחיך במרמה...

Midrash Tanchuma, Vayetzei 11:1

ALL NIGHT SHE PRETENDED TO BE RACHEL. When he arose in the morning (according to Gen. 29:25), THERE WAS LEAH. He said to her: Daughter of a swindler, why did you trick me? She said to him: < What about > you! Why did you trick your father? When he said to you: Is this my son Esav, you said to him (in Gen. 27:19): I AM ESAV YOUR FIRST-BORN. Now you are saying: Why have you tricked me? And did your father not say < to Esav > (in Gen. 27:35): YOUR BROTHER CAME WITH DECEIT?

"Providence wished Yaakov to be reminded of his own supplanting of his brother Esav. Lavan's statement contains a veiled allusion to Esav's bitter complaint, 'he has taken my firstborn right' 'In our country it is not done for the younger to usurp the rights of the firstborn as you did.' Measure for measure."

- Nechama Leibowitz

"It is impossible to read Genesis 27 – the text as it stands without commentary – and not to feel sympathy for Yitzchak and Esav rather than Rivka and Yaakov. ...Then consider the consequences. Yaakov had to leave home for more than twenty years in fear of his life. He then suffered an almost identical deceit practiced against him by Lavan when he substituted Leah for Rachel. ... The result of Lavan's deception brought grief to the rest of Yaakov's life. There was tension between Leah and Rachel. There was hatred between their children. Yaakov was deceived yet again, this time by his sons, when they brought him Yoseph's bloodstained robe: another deception of a father by his children involving the use of clothes. The result was that Yaakov was deprived of the company of his most beloved son for twenty-two years just as Yitzchak was of Yaakov. Yitzchak fully understood the nature of his two sons. He loved Esav but this did not blind him to the fact that Yaakov would be the heir of the covenant. Therefore, Yitzchak prepared two sets of blessings, one for Esav, the other for Yaakov... Yaakov eventually came to understand all this, perhaps during his wrestling match with the angel during the night before his meeting with Esav after their long estrangement. ...Yaakov gave the blessing back. Indeed, he said so explicitly. He said to Esav: "Please accept the blessing that was brought to you, for God has been gracious to me and I have all I need" (Gen. 33: 11). On this reading of the story, Rivka and Yaakov made a mistake, a forgivable one, an understandable one, but a mistake nonetheless." - The Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks (To read the complete article follow this link: <http://rabbisacks.org/jacob-right-take-esaus-blessing-toldot-5775/>)

Let's Talk!

In what ways did Yaakov suffer because of the trick that he and Rivka did to Yitzchak?
What might have happened if Yaakov did not take the Bracha from Esav?
Have you ever been in a position where it was not clear what the right thing to do was?

Our first team is our family: We spend a lot of time with family over Thanksgiving weekend. What are some ways that we can understand all of our differences?

Kids... ask your parents!

What are some things that you admire about your siblings? How are you similar to them?
How are you different from them?
Has it ever been hard to get along with your siblings?
What helped you?



check out our school podcast! <https://www.hartorah.org/YHTPOV/>

Send reflections from your family discussions to Tabletalk@hartorah.org and we will give you a shout out on our podcast!