



# **Jacob and Esau**

**Genesis 25:21-34, 27:1-41**

**"Have ya seen that Ripply Waters, Matey?" Captain Billy Ocean asked the new deckhand, who was busily polishing the brass lamps that hung above the captain's wheel. "Ripply said he had something important to tell me."**

**Matey paused and looked up. "Aye Capt'n, he were here just here a short time ago."**

**Just then, Ripply popped his head out of the hatch that led to the ship's hold where they stored their supplies. "Ripply Waters reporting for duty, sir," said Ripply with a salute.**

**"At ease, Sailor! Now, what did you want to see me about?" the Captain asked.**

**"Captain, I want you to arrest me." Ripply announced as stood in front of the Captain and held out his hands ready to be handcuffed.**

**Captain Billy looked at him for moment, trying to decide if he should take Ripply seriously or if he was joking.**

**"What?! Yer talking crazy talk," he finally said.**

**Ripply shook his head. "No sir, Captain. According to the code of the sea, the captain of a ship has the authority to arrest and imprison criminals."**

**Captain Billy gave him a puzzled look. "That be true, but, you're no criminal."**

**"Oh but, I am, Cap'n. I done terrible, bad things. Two years ago I wanted to steal my neighbor's traysure. Three years ago, I got in a fight and when I were a little'un, I lied to me mommy!"**

**"Ripply Waters, all them things were a long time ago. Did you tell God that you were sorry fer doing wrong in His eyes?" Captain asked.**

**Ripply nodded. "Aye, that I did."**

**"Well then, God forgived you of all that stuff."**

**"So, I'm forgiven?"**

**Captain Billy smiled. "Aye, Jesus died fer yore sins and God fergived ya."**

**Ripply thought for a moment. "Well then...I want to put in fer a transfer to another ship."**

**"Another ship?!" the Captain yelled. "Fer heaven's sake, why?"**

**"Captain, the Caribbean Queen's mission is to deliver God's word to kids all over the world. So that's why I don't deserve to be onboard. I've led a naughty life and I'm not worthy for God to use me."**

**"Is that what yer thinkin'?" the Captain asked, surprised. "Ha, God uses lots of people who ain't the least bit worthy. In fact, God chooses to use imperfect people all the time. That way when they do something amazing, the world will know that only God could have made it happen! Take Jacob for example."**

**"Who?" Ripply asked.**

**"Jacob, the son of Isaac. He were quite the troublemaker, but God used him in a mighty way. Here let me show ya. Let's take the Bible out right now!" Captain Billy Ocean walked over to the Treasure Chest and lifted the heavy lid. He removed his black leather Bible and gently lowered the lid back into place. "All right let me turn in me traysure map to the story of Jacob and Esau."**

**Ripply had followed the captain over to the chest and sat down on a nearby barrel. "Now who is Esau?"**

**"Esau were Jacob's twin brother and they was tusslin' with each other from the time they was in their mother's belly!" Captain Billy explained. "Esau was born first but Jacob was holdin' onto his heel. In fact, his name, Jacob, means 'Heel Catcher.' Now, in the Jewish tradition the first born son would get his father's blessing..."**

**"Aye," Ripply interrupted. "So Esau was gonna inherit his daddy's land and his animals and his house..."**

**"And most importantly his blessing." the Captain finished. "The blessing were a very important kind of prayer where the dad would ask God to watch over his son's entire future, and be put in charge of the family. Jacob wanted that blessing powerful bad."**

**"But Jacob's not the first born!" Matey exclaimed. He hated to miss a good Bible story and had sneaked over to listen.**

**"Aye," Captain Billy agreed. "But Jacob was tricky and he was going to try every trick he could think of to get that blessing. Like this one time, Esau came in from hunting and he were mighty hungry and old Jacob was cookin' some stew. Esau begged him for food, but Jacob replied, 'First sell me your birthright.' Well, would you believe that he did! He figured he was going to starve to death so he sold he sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of stew."**

**"That's terrible, that Jacob is a trickster!" Ripply said with a scowl.**

**Captain Billy continued with his story. "That ain't even the worst part. There was another time when Jacob's dad Isaac was old and blind. Now, Rebekah was Jacob and Esau's momma and Jacob was her favorite baby boy!"**

**"It's not nice to pick favorites!" Matey said.**

**"Aye, but Isaac played favorites too!" Captain explained. "He told his favorite son, Esau to go and hunt for some food and cook it up and bring it to him and then he would give him his blessing. So Esau went hunting. But Rebekah had heard what Isaac said and she told Jacob to dress up like Esau and trick his daddy! Esau was a great big, hairy hunter! So, Rebekah dressed Jacob in Esau's clothes, with goat's fur on his arms, cooked some tasty meat and sent Jacob in to Isaac."**

**"Did Jacob really lie to his daddy?" Ripply asked.**

**"Aye, he did." said the Captain. "Isaac asked who he was and Jacob lied and said, 'I am Esau your firstborn.' Isaac told him to come closer so he could touch him and make sure he was Esau. Then Isaac said, 'The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau.' He did not recognize him, for his hands were hairy like those of his brother Esau; so he blessed him. Isaac asked, 'Are you really my son Esau?' 'I am,' Jacob replied."**

**"Captain, did you get that? Jacob lied again!" Matey exclaimed.**

**Captain nodded. "Aye and then he fed his dad some tasty food and Isaac gave him the family blessing."**

**"What? I thought that blessing was supposed to be for Esau!" Ripply argued.**

**"It was, but Jacob tricked his dad. I told you he was naughty. And Esau, well, he was so angry that he threatened to kill his brother and Jacob had to run away!"**

**Ripply and Matey leaned forward; excited about the new direction the story was taking. They waited anxiously for Captain to continue.**

**"Well, what happened to Jacob?" Ripply begged.**

**Just then, Pepper Pelican, who was sitting high up on the top of the mainsail, squawked out a call to the captain. "Captain, we got rocks ahead! Rocks on the starboard side."**

**"Aye, Pepper!" The Captain yelled his reply as he sprinted towards the big captain's wheel to steer the boat away from danger. "Well sailors, we'll have to finish this story tomorrow," he called back to Ripply and Matey. As he grabbed the big, shiny wooden wheel, he called out again, "oh, but Ripply, you won't be here. You're going to transfer to another ship."**

**Ripply looked down at the deck timbers and shrugged. "Well, I suppose I could stay on board a little longer." He replied, raising his voice so that he could be heard over the wind that was now growing stronger. He followed the captain over to the wheel.**

**"But, I thought you weren't worthy enough for God to use you..." Captain began.**

**"Well..." Ripply interrupted. "If God could use a family like Jacob and Esau and Isaac and Rebekah, I suppose he could use a couple of ex-pirates with a few naughty deeds in their past."**

**A big smile spread across the Captain's weathered face. "Now yer getting' it. God chooses us to be part of his plan, not because we're perfect, but just because he wants to."**

**"I can't wait to see how God uses Jacob and Esau!" Ripply exclaimed as he picked up a pair of binoculars and peered through the lenses to help the captain search for the dangerous rocks.**