Intro: 20 By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. Hebrews 11:20

• Isaac pronounced a blessing upon his sons in respect of their future condition, and he did this by faith in God and in full confidence that He would accomplish all that He had promised. Isaac was about to die, but he believed that all that God had predicted would take place.

Here are six ways to help us understand vision faith:

I. "Vision Faith" Sees Things Not Yet Revealed to Sight – 1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

a. Faith operates in the realm of the unseen

b. To world Seeing is believing

c. To the Christian believing is seeing

• We see sees the invisible. We see the potential in a growing church. We see the failure in our governments. We see the need for God in our homes. We see the happiness in new converts. We see what God can do and not want God can’t do. The “vision faith” pastor will be encouraged on God’s movement in his church and a non “vision faith” pastor will not see God’s leadership.

II. “Vision Faith” acts on things we don’t understand – 37 Isaac answered and said to Esau, “Behold, I have made him lord over you, and all his brothers I have given to him for servants, and with grain and wine I have sustained him. What then can I do for you, my son?” Genesis 27:37

a. Isaac didn’t understand how the prophecy would workout

b. Vision faith sees God’s sovereignty with no understanding

c. Vision faith sees past failures and setbacks

• How was God going to give the blessing and heir to the young of twin boys? How is he going to carry on the birth right covenant of Abraham with the second of the twin, it has always been the first born get the brit right and blessing? But Isaac believed God will do what he said He would do. Being as blind as he was saw more clearly than most Christians who can see.

° 23 And the Lord said to her, “Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger.” Genesis 25:23

III. Vision Faith" is Obedient Rather Than Assisting –22 So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, who felt him and said, “The voice is Jacob’s voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.” 23 And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands. So he blessed him. Genesis 27:22-23

a. Rebecca and Jacob to Assist God for the blessing

• Rebecca and Jacob came up with a creative way to help God out. They cheated. This is not much more than what Abraham and Sarah did with Hagar. We know what God’s plan is, we try to figure out what God is doing, then we come up with a creative plan to help God out, and this leads to nothing but trouble. This is exactly what Abraham and Sarah did; they were assisting God instead of being obedient.

° 36 Esau said, “Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has cheated me these two times. He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing.” Then he said, “Have you not reserved a blessing for me?” Genesis 27:36

° 41 Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob.” Genesis 27:41

b. Isaac was obedient to the blessing from God

• Isaac’s faith did not initiate anything; it was not adventurous like Abraham’s. Isaac certainly displayed wonderful faith on Mount Moriah – Gen. 22:9; and in going out to meet Rebekah –Gen. 24:62-67; but in each case his faith was out of obedience. When he was to pass the blessing on it was for Esau, knowing God was going to give it somehow to Jacob. And if it were not for Rebecca and Jacob God would have done it, somehow.

° 7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, *“All* that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.” Exodus 24:7

IV. Real "Vision Faith" Will be Tested – 9 When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Genesis 22:9

a. He was tested in physically

° 19 He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. Hebrews 11:19

b. He was tested emotionally

° 22 So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, who felt him and said, “The voice is Jacob’s voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.” 23 And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands. So he blessed him. Genesis 27:22-23

V. “Vision faith” sees what is unpleasant – 38 Esau said to his father, “Have you but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father.” And Esau lifted up his voice and wept. 39 Then Isaac his father answered and said to him: “Behold, away from the fatness of the earth shall your dwelling be, and away from the dew of heaven on high. 40 By your sword you shall live, and you shall serve your brother; but when you grow restless you shall break his yoke from your neck.” Genesis 27:38-40

a. Esau wanted a blessing and got a curse

• Ever since his was born Esau took advantage of his birthright and blessing. He never appreciated them until he needs them. You see he was first, everyone else was beneath him. We see this type of self-centerness every day. Rich People, Cheerleaders, Athletes, Politicians, Pastors, and even some family members, all have one thing in common, their over inflated egos.

b. Esau lost everything because of his arrogance

° 13 The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. Proverbs 8:13

VI. "Vision Faith" is Beautiful When It sees the End of Life – 29 And Isaac breathed his last, and he died and was gathered to his people, old and full of days. And his sons Esau and Jacob buried him. Genesis 35:29

a. His faith saw him through a full life

• Pretty much this can be said about all who have lived a full life in Christ, and that is by God’s grace and my faith kept me going through life and now will see me through death. Isaac’s faith was not full of fireworks or mystery, but he faith was full of life.

° 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing. 2 Timothy 4:7, 8

b. His faith saw Him who is invisible

• Isaac never saw God just heard from God from time to time. His faith was not centred on what he could see but instead it was centred around what he couldn’t see and yet still believe. Ray Charles once said that although he is blind that he could see better than some people who were not blind. It does not eyes to see God. Yes, Isaac was blind as a bat, but he saw more clearly than many of us today.

° 26 Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” 28 Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” 29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” John 20:26-29