

# MESSAGE NOTES

## **“Empowering Relationships”**

*Conclusion to the series: “Family Matters”*

*Sunday, June 25, 2017 • Pastor Norman Nakanishi*

### **Respect boundaries.**

*“When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents. <sup>28</sup>Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob. <sup>29</sup>Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted. <sup>30</sup>And Esau said to Jacob, ‘Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!’ <sup>31</sup>Jacob said, ‘Sell me your birthright now.’ <sup>32</sup>Esau said, ‘I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?’ <sup>33</sup>Jacob said, ‘Swear to me now.’ So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. <sup>34</sup>Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.” (Genesis 25:27-34 ESV)*

### **Equip don’t enable.**

*“Now therefore, my son, obey my voice as I command you. <sup>9</sup>Go to the flock and bring me two good young goats, so that I may prepare from them delicious food for your father, such as he loves. <sup>10</sup>And you shall bring it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he dies.’ <sup>11</sup>But Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, ‘Behold, my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man. <sup>12</sup>Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be mocking him and bring a curse upon myself and not a blessing.’ <sup>13</sup>His mother said to him, ‘Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, bring them to me.’” (Genesis 27:8-13 ESV)*

### **Liberate don’t manipulate.**

*“So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. <sup>21</sup>Then Jacob said to Laban, ‘Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.’ <sup>22</sup>So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. <sup>23</sup>But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her... <sup>25</sup>And in the morning, behold, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, ‘What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?’ <sup>26</sup>Laban said, ‘It is not so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years. <sup>27</sup>Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.’ <sup>28</sup>Jacob did so, and completed her week...” (Genesis 29:20-23, 25-28 ESV)*

## **Let go, don't hold on.**

*"Now Jacob heard that the sons of Laban were saying, 'Jacob has taken all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has gained all this wealth.'<sup>2</sup>And Jacob saw that Laban did not regard him with favor as before.<sup>3</sup>Then the Lord said to Jacob, 'Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you.'" (Genesis 31:1-3 ESV)*

*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...<sup>5</sup>a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;<sup>6</sup>a time to seek, and a time to lose..." (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 5-6 ESV)*

## **Consider Jesus.**

*"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.<sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.<sup>5</sup>Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.<sup>8</sup>And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." (Philippians 2:3-8 ESV)*



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