

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Genesis 27: 34, 35 *“When Esau heard his father’s words, he burst out with a loud and bitter cry and said to his father, ‘Bless me – me too, my father!’ But he said, ‘Your brother came deceitfully and took your blessing.’”*

Matthew 24: 4, 5 *“Jesus answered: ‘Watch out that no-one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.’”*

Matthew 24: 24 *“For false Christ’s and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect – if that were possible”*

‘Economical with the truth’, ‘White lies’, ‘Fibbing’. These are every day sayings to indicate lying or deceit. Some will justify white lies to protect themselves or shield others from the truth but ultimately these actions often result in more and worse deceit and repercussions.

The story of Esau and his brother Jacob receiving their father’s blessing is convoluted but involves Rebekah, the mother of Esau and Jacob in arranging a deceitful plot to promote Jacob the younger brother to be his father’s, Isaac, successor. Rebekah was angry that Esau had taken two Hittite wives. The story takes an unhappy turn as the deceit is discovered with Jacob having to flee for his life.

Matthew describes Jesus’ teaching in the ‘Sermon on the Mount’ where he warns the disciples against deceitful people who will claim to be who they are not.

With the Lord’s help through prayer we should avoid listening to ‘false prophets’ and ‘the devil in our own minds’ leading us to deceive others and more importantly, God.