

Marriage Series 2009, (#8) “LOVE MANIPULATION”

Our lesson text introduces us to one of the great love stories of the Bible. It is the love of Isaac and Rebekah. Isaac was 40 years old when he found the love of his life. Soon after they were married, they discovered that Rebekah was barren (Gen.24).

As a godly husband, Isaac prayed 20 years for Rebekah to have a male child to fulfill the messianic promise of the Abrahamic covenant (Gen.12:1-3; 3:15). One day she announced that the Lord had answered their prayer and that she was pregnant with prophetic famous twins (Gen.25) [Jacob and Esau].

This would be a great love story with a happy ending, if we were stop here. But God wants to teach us how to overcome Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus thinking (OMCD) hang-ups that turned this wonderful love story between two believers into a stressful conflict resulting in enormous emotional pain.

Today’s lesson will study how this couple used “Love Manipulation” out of OMCD hang-ups to turn this love story into a hostile warfare that spread to others and lasted for at least another 20 years (Gen.31:41) [Jacob away from home].

1. Like Abigail, Rebekah had the OMCD thinking hang-up of “passive rebellion” against the divinely delegated authority of her husband (Ge.2:23-25; Eph.5:22-24, 33).

She understood this doctrinal principle yet worked behind his back to circumvent his authority. She is engaged in deceptive conflict within her soul regarding the application of the truth of God’s word.

Eve had a similar problem:

“And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being quite deceived, fell into the transgression.”
(1 Tim.2:14)

She was deceived to believe the lie of the Devil. This became the doctrine of OMCD (Gen.2:17; 3:1-7)

“But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.” (2 Cor.11:3)

Did something happen in their relationship that caused her to lose trust in Isaac as her spiritual hero and in the system of the divine chain of command (1 Cor.11:3) [God, Christ, husband, and wife]?

One thing that happened was the King Abimelech incident (Gen.26) [Philistine king].

2. Rebekah went into the Abimelech incident doctrinally correct (1 Pet.3:1-6; 1 Cor.11:3; Gen.26:7-11).

But she came out of it with passive rebellion against her husband’s position of authority and against the system of divine chain of command.

We see her attitude change later when she felt threatened by a rumor (eaves-dropping) (Gen.27:4-6). She became subjective and went to her favored child for emotional support rather than to her husband or Lord. She did so based upon a false assumption that she readily accepted as true (OMCD thinking).

PRINCIPLE: False assumptions lead to false interpretations which lead to false expectations, resulting in false applications.

New Man Divine Viewpoint thinking (NMDV) would have asked, “what does the bible say?”

In this case, NMDV would have engaged in the promise from God given to both Rebekah and Isaac before the birth of the twins (Gen.25:22-23) [prophetic famous twins].

NMDV understands and believes that God is in charge of His promises and plan – “And being fully assured that what He promised, He was able also to perform.” (Rom.4:21)

This couple is like so many believers who talk in NMDV terms but live in OMCD terms (Rom.7:14-25).

3. Rebekah was using the doctrinal concept of marital pleasing to disguise her OMCD passive rebellion, fear, and insecurity (1 Cor.7:33-35).

She used it against Isaac’s age and physical disability (eye-sight) and desire for certain foods along with her female beauty and charm to deceive him (Esau and blessing of Abraham Covenant) (Gen.27:11-12).

She believes that she can manipulate all the men in her life, even God. We have another desperate housewife.

4. Isaac was using the doctrinal concept of marital authority to disguise his OMCD fear of being overwhelmed and insecure about the responsibility of those under his authority (Abimelech and blessing of Abraham Covenant (Gen. Ch. 26-27)).

He used his position of divine delegated authority to manipulate and bully those who wanted to love and trust him.

Both are using OMCD love manipulation to get people who love them to do their will even if cause conflicts with God’s will (Gen.27).

Like so many believers, they will continue this OMCD behavior until it blows-up in their face.

5. Both believe that the misbehavior of OMCD will be rewarded based on past experiences. This is part of the lies of the Devil behind OMCD behavior. It continues because of a distorted view of happiness.

They have become pre-occupied with this love manipulation technique to get their temporary fix. God calls this “conformity to this world” in place of “transformation by renewing of your mind” (Rom.12:2).

God will allow it to come to a head before He intervenes. This is what I call the “**pig pen complex**” from the parable of Prodigal Son – “But when he came to his senses, he said, ‘how many of my father’s hired men have more than enough bread, BUT I am dying here with hunger.’” (Luke 15:17/ son’s viewpoint)

Note that the Father knew this all the time. But it was important for the son to see the destructiveness of OMCD and desire change - “For this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found. And they began to be merry.” (Luke 15:24, 32/ father’s viewpoint)

- What do they think will happen if they are not personally in control?
- What do they think will happen if they are personally in control?
- What caused Isaac to feel threatened by living among the Philistines?
- What did he think he would get from lying about Rebekah?
- What caused Rebekah to feel threatened by overhearing Isaac promise Esau Jacob’s rightful blessing?
- What did she believe she would get from deceiving her husband?

- Do YOU understand that you can not manipulate the Lord or others for the Lord?
- Do YOU understand that you will not be rewarded for disobeying or manipulating God’s word?

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