**Finding Grace**

**Grace from the Patriarchs**

**Grace that Chooses**

**Hebrews 4:16** - Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

3 characteristics of people God often uses in the fulfillment of His gracious promises

**I. Those Who Know Heartache and Struggle**

A. Rebekah’s barrenness

**Genesis 25:20** - …*and Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife.*

**Genesis 25:21** - *Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was barren…*

**Genesis 25:22** - *But the children struggled together within her…*

B. The twin’s rivalry

C. Both Isaac and Rebekah’s response

**Genesis 25:21** - *Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord answered him and Rebekah his wife conceived.*

**Genesis 25:22** - *But the children struggled together within her; and she said, “If it is so, why then am I this way?” So she went to inquire of the Lord.*

**Genesis 25:23** - *The Lord said to her, “Two nations are in your womb; and two peoples will be separated from your body; and one people shall be stronger than the other; and the older shall serve the younger.”*

D. The point to them and to us

**James 1:2-5** - *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*

**II. Those Who Acknowledge their Own Imperfections**

A. The lesson to the original audience

B. At its core, God’s grace is a humbling doctrine

1. Because it exposes our need

**Romans 3:23** - …*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God…*

2. It exposes our inability

**Ephesians 2:8-9** - *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

C. That’s why pride and superiority have no place among the people of God

”Though justice be thy plea, consider this—that in the course of justice none of us should see salvation.” (Portia in The Merchant of Venice)

**III. Those Who Value their Place in God’s Plan**

**Genesis 25:34** - *Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew; and he ate and drank, and rose and went on his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.*

**1 Samuel 17:42** - *When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him; for he was but a youth, and ruddy, with a handsome appearance.*

**2 Samuel 6:16** - *Then it happened as the ark of the Lord came into the city of David that Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.*