

Thought for the day – Thursday 17th February 2022

By Revd John Marshall

Jacob and Esau

Maggie is reading Fresh from the Word (2022 IBRA)

On Sunday she read the story of Jacob and Esau. We also read some of the story as we thought about Rebekah in our Bible study. This story is not exactly edifying.

Helen Van Koevering writes “Many say they study the Bible to learn how to live good, loving, moral lives. Yet there are many stories that scandalise. Isaac and Rebekah with their sons, Esau and Jacob, show us a family as real then as now. A system that every family might recognise with rivalries, parental favouritism, anger, covetousness, deceit and conspiracy. Yet we judge the actions of these ancient families from our own point of view. We might regard Esau as the wronged party. Rebekah and Jacob conspired against him and Isaac.

Certainly God’s choice of Jacob makes no sense by any human standard seeking to express morality.

God’s choice of a scoundrel scandalises us. This won’t be the only time that God chooses a less-than-righteous scandalous person in the unfolding story of redemption and restoration.”

[Bible Passage: Genesis 27.1-27](#)

Perhaps at some stage we could do a series on those who God has chosen who might scandalise us?

How about Moses, David or Saul who became Paul?