

SERMON: GENESIS – JACOB AND ESAU (Genesis 25)

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October 28, 2018

From the womb, two brothers, Jacob and Esau, feud with each other. When we feud with others, how are we to handle these feuds? Our desire to love others must always be stronger than our desire to triumph over others. Thankfully God's love for us triumphed over our sin. It is this good news that allows us to love even our enemies.

"The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD." – Genesis 25:22

Conflict _____.

Genesis 25-27, 2 Samuel 8:13, Deuteronomy 23:7

Conflict is part of our _____.

Genesis 25:23-26

Dealing with Conflict:

1. Exercise _____ instead of anger.
2. Put the _____ on things.
3. Don't be _____.
4. Don't let conflict _____.

"... Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold." – Ephesians 4:26-27

Conflict can only be solved by _____.

"He himself went on ahead and bowed down to the ground seven times as he approached his brother. But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept." Genesis 33:3-4

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." – Romans 5:8

"Therefore we conclude that all law, divine and human, treating of outward conduct, should not bind any further than love goes. Love is to be the interpreter of law." – Martin Luther



Questions for individual or group reflection:

What is the worst conflict that you've been a part of?

Which is harder for you – conflict involving you or seeing ones you love in conflict with each other?

Can you relate to the conflict between Jacob and Esau in Gen. 25-27?

Did you experience sibling rivalry in your family?

Have you seen conflict extend across generations?

Do you think that conflict is part of our basic human nature?

Does waiting before acting help you diffuse conflict?

Have you been wrong in your assessment of the motives of others?

Why do you think we assume the worst about others?

Why is passive aggression so damaging?

Why do you think God tells us to not let the sun go down on our anger (see Ephesians 4:26-27)?

Describe the sequence of events that led to reconciliation between Jacob and Esau.

Whose job was harder – Jacob's or Esau's?

How is love involved in forgiveness and reconciliation?

How did Christ's love for us reconcile us to God?

Do you live like God has forgiven you?

Or do you act as though you are still an enemy of God?

What are you missing out on if you do not receive God's love and forgiveness?

Do you know anyone who is still in hiding, believing that God wants nothing to do with them?

What might you tell them?

Taking it home / Memory Verse:

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. Romans 3:23-24

GENESIS

JACOB AND ESAU

The image is a dark, grainy photograph with a bright yellow light source on the right side. The background is a dark, almost black, color. Numerous small, white, irregularly shaped particles and fibers are scattered throughout the frame, appearing to be suspended in the air or falling. The particles vary in size and shape, some being small dots and others being thin, needle-like fibers. The overall appearance is that of a forensic or scientific sample, possibly related to a shooting investigation as mentioned in the text.

Images from Pittsburg shooting.

GENESIS

JACOB AND ESAU

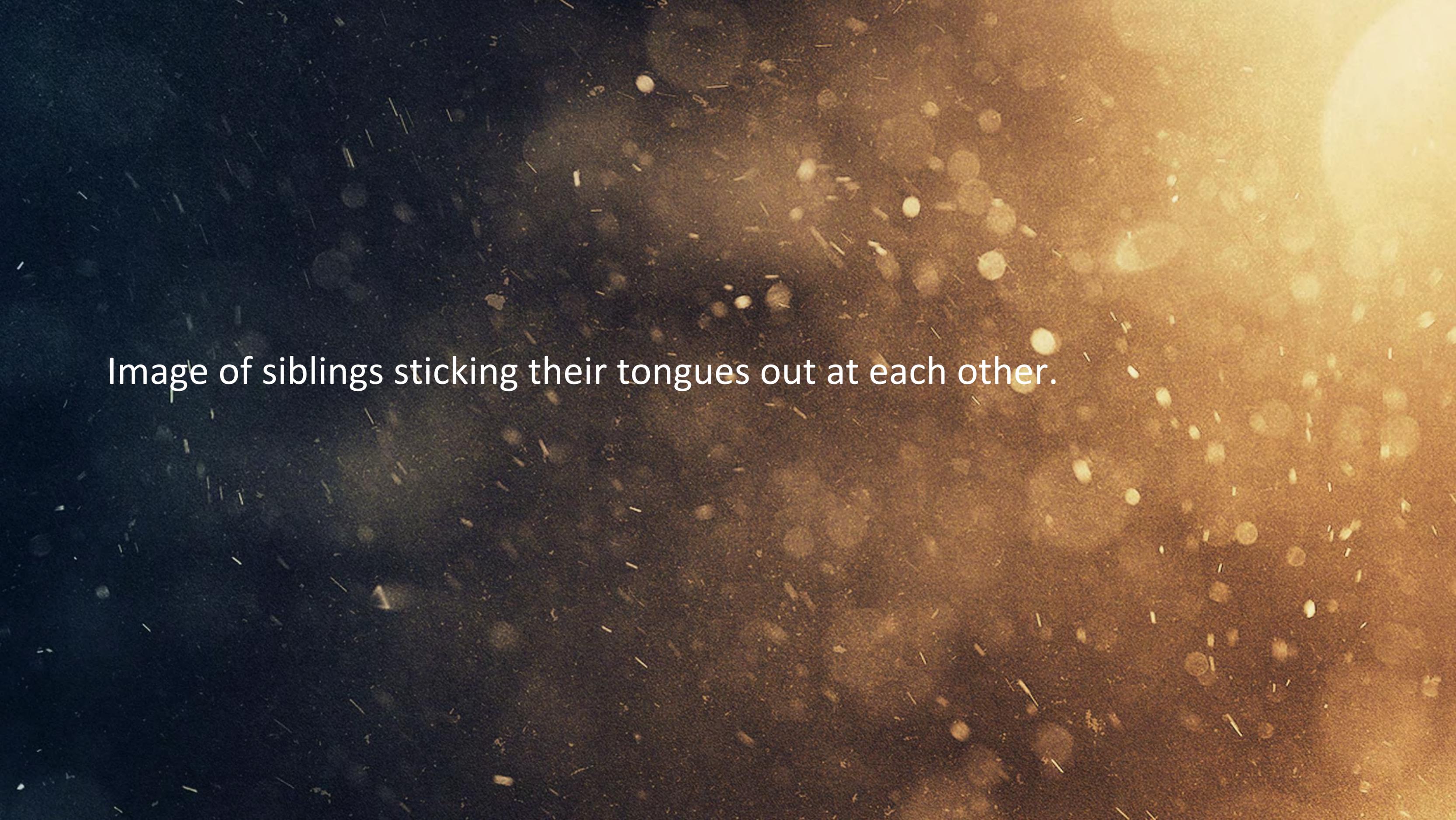


Image of siblings sticking their tongues out at each other.

Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was childless. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant.

GENESIS 25:21

The babies **jostled** each other within her, and she said, “Why is this happening to me?” So she went to inquire of the LORD.

GENESIS 25:22

Conflict HAPPENS.

...striking down eighteen thousand Edomites in
the Valley of Salt.

2 SAMUEL 8:13

Do not despise an Edomite, for the Edomites
are related to you.

DEUTERONOMY 23:7

Conflict is part of our HUMAN NATURE.

The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, “**Why is this happening to me?**” So she went to inquire of the LORD.

GENESIS 25:22

The LORD said to her, “Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger.”

GENESIS 25:23

²⁴ When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. ²⁵ The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. ²⁶ After this, his brother came out, **with his hand grasping Esau's heel**; so he was named Jacob.

GENESIS 25:24-26

Images of animal siblings fighting.

Dealing with Conflict:

1. Exercise PATIENCE instead of anger.



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8th Commandment: You shall not give **false testimony** against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

Dealing with Conflict:

1. Exercise PATIENCE instead of anger.
2. Put the BEST CONSTRUCTION on things.

We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Dealing with Conflict:

1. Exercise PATIENCE instead of anger.
2. Put the BEST CONSTRUCTION on things.
3. Don't be PASSIVE AGGRESSIVE.

Dealing with Conflict:

1. Exercise PATIENCE instead of anger.
2. Put the BEST CONSTRUCTION on things.
3. Don't be PASSIVE AGGRESSIVE.
4. Don't let conflict LINGER.



²⁶ Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the **devil** a foothold.

EPHESIANS 4:26-27



²⁶ Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give **the devil** a foothold.

EPHESIANS 4:26-27

³ He himself went on ahead and bowed down to the ground seven times as he approached his brother. ⁴ But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept.

GENESIS 33:3-4

Conflict can only be solved by LOVE.



FREE
FREE
HUGS
😊



But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

ROMANS 5:8



October 31, 1517



Therefore we conclude that all law, divine and human, treating of outward conduct, should not bind any further than love goes. **Love is to be the interpreter of law.**

- Martin Luther





It is finished.

**LOVE has
Overcome**

**Our conflict with
God is over.**

