

JULY 5 2025 DEACON ROBERT KINGHORN

I'm going to base the homily on the first reading today, the reading about Jacob and his brother Esau.

Now, there's a saying that "God writes truths with crooked lines." And sometimes with crooked people as well. Well, people may not be entirely crooked, but at least imperfect people. That's why I think this first reading about Jacob and Esau is such good news to us — we, who are imperfect people. There's a chance for all of us because God worked through Jacob.

This story about Jacob and Esau is quite a strange story, isn't it? Jacob was an out-and-out cheat and a con man. Let's put it quite frankly. He lied and he cheated. He cheated his brother out of his birthright. He's the type of person you'd say, "You wouldn't buy a used camel from this man." You know what it is: "Oh, you want a camel with two humps? Oh, trust me. By the time you drive it off the property, it will have two humps." He's a liar and a cheat in many ways, and yet this is the one God chose to be the father of Israel — the people of God. Could you imagine that?

So this story is, in some ways, highly offensive to us because we want God to work through moral people — people who think like you and me perhaps. But this story is not about holy people being chosen. It's about people being chosen, and because they are chosen, they become holy. And this is our story.

This story is about radical grace. It's about totally undeserved love. We're all imperfect people, yet God loves us. This is always the good news of the gospel, the good news of the word of God. You see, Christ did not die for us after we repented. No. The invitation to this Eucharist and to be people of God came even though we were imperfect. And yet, God still loves us.

The call of God is for all people — people with crooked hearts and perhaps even unrepentant hearts — just in many ways like Jacob and Esau. But this, I think, is what this Holy Year of Hope is all about. Holy years are always years when the people of the Beatitudes have to hear the good news of God. The people of the Beatitudes that we meet in the streets of our city, the people who've been pushed aside and told they've got no value: "You go over there. I don't want to speak to you." These are the people that the Holy Year of Grace is all about, this year of hope.

These are the people that we are called to bring the good news to in our life. When we see people like that, people of the Beatitudes who are hurting, at least smile and say, "Hello. How are you?" That can bring God's love to them at that moment.

And so, as we continue to celebrate this Eucharist together, even though we feel we are unworthy, we are called to this table of sacrifice. We are called to receive Jesus. He loves us, and God is always with us at every moment of our life. No matter what our past has been, we always have a future.

God always works through the people of the Beatitudes to us, but we are also the ones who bring the good news to the people of the Beatitudes. So as we celebrate this Eucharist, let us continue to call to mind those who are hurting in the world. Let us reach out to them, and pray to us, on this day we celebrate the feast of Our Lady. We offer everything through Mary to God.