

## “Jacob and Esau – Protecting the Blessing”

Genesis 25:21– 28:9

### Open: Story

- Rebekah was unable to have children, so Isaac intreats the Lord and the Lord answers his prayer by giving her twins, Jacob and Esau. Gen. 25:21-24
- Though Jacob and Esau were biological twins, they could not be any more different in their appearance and personalities. Gen. 25:25-28
  - Esau was a hairy man and a rough rugged outdoorsman.
  - Jacob was a plain (without pomp and without show; ordinary) man.
    - It becomes evident by the lifestyles lived, that neither men were stupid. We find Esau embracing a brutish and coarse life style, while Jacob develop's a crafty business man's mentality about life.
- Esau went to Jacob one day looking for a meal, and Esau sells his birthright for a bowl of soup. Gen. 25:29-34
  - The context of these verses shows us the way that Esau viewed his inheritance, both physical and spiritual. Despised = *To see as worthless.*
- We find a personal relationship with God and Jacob that is absent from Esau's life. Gen. 26:1-33
  - Jacob was close enough to God in relationship that God was able to communicate to Isaac what His desire for Isaac was. Gen. 26:2-3
    - *“It wasn't magic, chance, or obligation that God blessed Jacob it was Gods response to Jacob's desire to have a relationship with and be blessed by God.”*
  - Jacob's work ethic and obedience allowed God to bless him. Gen. 26:11-18
  - Jacob continued to grow in his relationship with God and recognition of his need of God. Gen. 26:23-25
- We once again discover, Esau being more concerned with what he wants than he is with what is best. Gen. 26:34-35
  - Esau chose to marry against the wish of his parents AND God's instructions.
  - There will always be someone who desires to be blessed by God and is willing to obey.
- God uses Rebekah to protect the family blessing. Gen. 27
  - Many have wrongly accused Jacob as the “Deceiver”. We need to recognize that his actions were done in obedience to his mothers advice, who was protecting the blessing from being misused.
  - We find that Jacob was worried about his testimony, but in faith obeyed his mother. Gen. 27:12-13
  - Isaac was, rightfully, following the tradition of family blessings. Gen. 27:1-4
  - Because of Esau's track record, of carnality, Rebekah helps guide Jacob in receiving the blessing. Gen. 27:5-29
    - It's interesting to note that Rebekah was the one who was an “outsider” and understood the special and unique opportunity it was to be blessed by God. (So often, those who are around the blessings of God become familiar and eventually abuse those blessings.)
  - Esau loses out on the blessings and becomes angry, while blaming everyone else for the results he had brought about by his poor decision making. Gen. 27:30-41

- Rebekah warns Jacob to leave until Esau's anger had passed. Isaac guides Jacob in decisions he should make before Jacobs departure. **Gen. 27:42- 28:7**
- Esau continued to travel down the path of rebellion against his parents and God. **Gen. 28:8-9**
  - He continued to develop relationships with those who grieved his father.

## I. Don't sacrifice the **permanent** on the altar of the temporary.

- Esau failed to recognize the importance of his dependance on God. In doing so, he failed to gain all the blessings that were rightfully his. **Prov. 23:4-5** *"Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom. [5] Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven."*
- A. Christians should guard themselves from creating appetites that will cause them to become enamored with things that will distract them from true blessings in life. **Ps. 34:8-10** *"O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. [9] O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him. [10] The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing."*
- B. Christians needs to recognize that the resources available to an obedient child of God will be enough sustain and satisfy. **Ps. 145:16** *"Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing."*
  - Trust that God can, and will, provide for your every need. **Mt. 6:25-32**
- C. Christians need to recognize that, by seeking to please God, they will have all the things in life I need. **Mt. 6:33-34**
  - i. When I seek to preserve my life by earthly means, I will forfeit the protection in life that faith offers the obedient child of God. **Lk. 17:32-33** *"Remember Lot's wife. [33] Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it."*
  - ii. You can enjoy the best of BOTH lives (the physical and the spiritual) by living your life the way God has instructed in his Word.
    - a. B – Believe that God's way is the best way.
    - b. O – Obey what God has said is the best way.
    - c. T – Trust that God will give to you the best.
    - d. H – Hope continually until God gives you the best.

## II. Don't exchange a personal relationship with God for hopeful gain of earthly pleasures.

- Esau chose to disregard the things that God considered valuable and sought to gain blessings in life his own way. **Prov. 14:12** / **Prov. 16:25** *“There is a way that [which] seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”*

A. What can the world give to you that God has not already promised to the obedient child of God?

**II Peter 2:19** *“While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.”*

- **Prov. 15:6** *“In the house of the righteous is much treasure: but in the revenues of the wicked is trouble.”*

B. Nothing is gained in life by seeking the blessings of God through carnal avenues. **Prov. 10:2, 22**

*“Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death. [22] The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.”*

C. When we make Christ the center of our life, then our life will be centered around the blessings of God.

**Eph. 3:16-21a** *“That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; [17] That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, [18] May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; [19] And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. [20] Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, [21] Unto him be glory...”*

## III. Don't forsake Godly counsel that is given to you by spiritual advisors.

- Jacob saw continual blessings in his life because he followed the counsel of Godly people.

A. Jacob followed the Word of the Lord. (**Gen. 26:1**). Christians need to learn to seek and listen to the advice from God's Word. **I Cor. 1:20-21** / **II Tim. 2:15** / **II Tim. 3:15**

B. Jacob followed the advice from his mother. **Gen. 27:6-13**

C. Jacob followed the advice from his father. **Gen. 28:1-4**

*Close:*

- Teach your children the importance of obedience to God by teaching them to obey you.
- Teach the next generation the importance of understanding what is truly valuable in life.
- Teach the next generation to seek godly counsel and to not exchange the truths of God's Word for carnal things.

### **Prov. 23:23**

*“Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.”*

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1. What are the names to the twin boys born to Rebekah. **Jacob & Esau**
2. What did Esau sell his Birthright for. **A bowl of pottage.**
3. Why did Rebekah help Jacob gain the family blessing? **Because Jacob was pleasing God by obeying and Esau was rebelling against his parents.**
4. Don't sacrifice the **??????** on the altar of the temporary. **Permanent**
5. Don't **??????** Godly counsel that is given to you. **Forsake.**