

Exchanging the Future for Today
4-17-2016

Gen 25:27-34

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents. 28 Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob. 29 Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted. 30 And Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!" (Therefore his name was called Edom.) 31 Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright now." 32 Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" 33 Jacob said, "Swear to me now." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. 34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Esau is the poster boy for today's society - living in the now, instant gratification, and "If it feels good, do it" society.

- Jacob exploited Esau's impetuous personality & hungry condition. Gen 25:29-31
Birthright: meant he would get twice the inheritance and be the head of family & spiritual leader when their father died.

- The birthright to this family included the covenant God made with Abraham: land, nation, & Messiah.

Jacob the schemer, valued the birthright so highly that he decided not to wait on the Lord to fulfill the promise but took matters into own hands....he'd stoop to any level to obtain it.

- Like Jacob: It was easy to convince himself that the ends justify any means to achieve them.
 - We may call ourselves shrewd, but it is really unethical, greedy, and selfish.
- The goal is never more important than godliness. 1 Tim 4:8, 6:6-9, Mt 6:31-33
 - God will enable us to accomplish His will His way.
- HOPE for all: God took Jacob's tenacity and ambition & turned it into virtue.

We may tend to condemn Jacob & admire and feel compassion for Esau.

- In Scripture there is no condemnation for Jacob but unequivocal condemnation of Esau. Gen 25:32-34, Heb 12:15-16

The scheme was successful because Esau was driven and ruled by his feelings & immediate needs.

- He valued and focused on present desires not the future....on the body not the spirit.

Because he was impatient, impulsive, and unable to delay gratification, Esau exaggerated his physical condition...he would not have died if he didn't get the soup.

- Christians who cast off God's moral standards often say they had to meet their "need."
 - I'll never/always be _____ so I _____ (sin).

In a moment of fleshly desire he did something he never dreamed he'd do & would forever regret....the HUNTER traded birthright for VEGETABLE soup.

- He destroyed his future for present physical desire/pleasure.
 - Like many, Esau was defined by his appetite/sin which destroyed them.

Living for instant gratification will rob you of spiritual blessing.

- Esau was raised in a god-fearing, though imperfect family, yet threw away great spiritual privileges because he not appreciate them.
 - Youth: Can't blame disobedience to God on the way your parents raised or treated you.
- Sinful parents- deal with your sin (it does affect kids), sinful kids deal with your sin!

Esau's impulsive decision stemmed from years of disregarding spiritual things & living by the flesh for the here & now. Gal 5:16-25, 1 Cor 10:13

- Small, daily, choices & actions have significant future consequences.
 - Living for instant gratification will rob you of spiritual blessings.

Life process of trading one thing for another.

- Time/ability for money, food, shelter, relationships, leisure, & pleasure.
- We are constantly tempted to give up precious eternal riches to indulge a sudden strong desire.....a short-lived physical pleasure. Like Esau and his soup.
 - Some exchange purity for porn, integrity for financial compromise, family for an affair or money.

Because of the cross the Holy Spirit enables us to walk in the spirit, not in the flesh.

- Pursue eternal riches rather than the pleasure of immediate gratification.