

Remnant Life Church

January 15, 2017

Esau – Here and Now

Genesis 25:19-34

- Instant gratification
 - When I say those two words what visual immediately comes to mind?
 - For me it could very well be that every light on my trip to the store this afternoon turned green before I rolled up to it
- While that is nice when it happens, instant anything is usually not beneficial in the long run
- This morning we look at the man Esau - he had everything to gain but lost it all because he wanted when he wanted it here and now

READ – Gen 25:19-34

- The four main characters in this story are Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, and Jacob
 - Isaac married Rebekah (24:67)
 - Rebekah was barren having had no children (25:21)
 - God did something for her that he did several times through the Scripture
 - The characteristic of God that is demonstrated: God brings life to the lifeless – physically and spiritually
 - Sarah, wife of Abraham gave birth to Isaac (Gen 21:1-2)
 - Rebekah, wife of Isaac gave birth to twins Esau and Jacob (Gen 25:21)
 - Rachel, wife of Jacob gave birth to Joseph (Gen 30:22)
 - Hannah became the mother of Samuel (I Sam 1:20)
 - Elizabeth became to mother of John the Baptist (Lk 1:24)
 - Why did God bless these seemingly barren women with children?
 1. To show that the multiplication and growth of Israel was not by natural succession but by the grace of God
 - a. The blessings of the people would be by God's Hand not the efforts of man
 2. To exercise the faith, hope, and patience of the people in the promises of God
 3. By miraculous child-bearing in barren women the way was beginning to be paved for the people, one day, to believe in a virgin birth
- Esau and Jacob are born
 - What does the Bible tell us about Esau? (25:25)
 - He's born first
 - He is red
 - He is hairy

- This description is almost animal-like
- This in fact does describe the nature of the man and how he lived
- Not just a hunter but a skilled hunter (25:27) – needed to survive not for sport
 - A skilled hunter had to be crafty
 - Had to love being where the animals were
 - Swope men
- Jacob could not have been more different
 - He was a mamma’s boy
 - He hung around the women and even learned to cook!!! (Not what the males of the family did!)
 - Rebekah loved him more than she loved Esau and Jacob loved Esau more
 - Parents create a dangerous environment when they show favoritism
 - Difference between Kyle and Troy
- Esau comes home one day famished and, for a bowl of bean soup, gives away his birthright
 - Birthright: the firstborn was entitled to:
 - Take the place of leadership in the family
 - Receive the inheritance of the father
 - A double portion of what the others received
 - The name of the family would be carried through his line
 - NOTE – in this case that was the lineage of David and ultimately Jesus
 - Out of Esau’s line came the Edomites lived south of the Dead Sea (Gen 36:9)
 - A thorn in the side of the Israelites from the time of Moses through David and Solomon
 - Edomites plundered and enslaved the Judeans in Jerusalem (2 Chron 28)
 - This birthright represented his future, his security, his destiny – his everything
 - He gave it away for a bowl of bean soup
- Esau was concerned about the here and now
 - When your physical wants and desires overcome your spirit and your brain you are headed for disaster – every time
 - Heb 12:16-17 *See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. Even though he sought the blessing with tears, he could not change what he had done.*
 - The actions of we take outside the leading of the spirit often cannot be undone or overturned
 - Esau cried and pleaded for a blessing but there was none to be had
 - TRUTH – temporary satisfaction never leads to eternal benefit

- Who you were does not need to define who you will become
 - Esau and Jacob were born, literally, moments apart
 - Jacob had a hold of Esau's foot (25:26)
 - Their births defined who they were
 - Both men underwent drastic change in their lives between the time they parted till they reunited 20 years later

- I just want to look at one aspect of the reunion between Jacob and Esau
 - First the SET UP
 - In Gen 32 Jacob is traveling back to his homeland with Leah and Rachel and knows that an encounter with Esau is awaiting him
 - Jacob sends men ahead and they come back with bad news – Esau, with 400 men, is coming out to meet them (Gen 32:3,6)
 - Jacob reverts to his old nature and puts together a scheme to ensure that his family will survive by dividing them in half as they get closer to their destination (Gen 32:7-8)
 - What did he not do? Trust God!!!
 - Oh, he prayed, (“Then, Jacob prayed...”) but not until he had made his own plan first (Gen 32:9)
 - Matt 6:33 - *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*
 - The night before the brothers meet each other Jacob encounters the Angel of the Lord and a wrestling match ensues
 - But this is not a match where one will win but a match where one will be changed
 - Before Jacob could meet Esau he had to undergo a change at the very core of who he was
 - His very name was changed from Jacob (deceiver) to Israel (Triumphant with God)
 - Well they finally meet, of course Esau embraces his brother and they weep for joy at being together again

- Jacob had sent wave after wave of gifts hoping to soften (manipulate) his brother
 - Esau's response is found in Gen 33:9
 - *But Esau said, “I already have plenty, my brother. Keep what you have for yourself.”*
 - On first read this appears to be a very kind, selfless act – I know I always read it that way

- But consider this...
- Esau, like Jacob, had a spirit that also needed to be changed
 - His was, “I have enough”
 - This is not contentment but self-reliance

- This spirit has killed many a...
 - Church
 - Revival
 - Move of God in a person's life
- **Luke 6:38** - *Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*
- **Mal 3:10** - *Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.*
- **Eph 3:20** - *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,*
- Do you shut off the blessings, the power of God in your life with the spirit of Esau?
- Jacob had a lot more to learn but he never shut off the blessings of God in His life by saying he had enough
- Ask for ALL that God has for you and through the time of waiting embrace and welcome the changes that God will need to bring into your life.
- NEXT WEEK – how to rightly seek the blessings of God and then how to hold on to what He gives you.