



Genesis 25-27
Jacob & Esau
From Sermon 2.7.21

Read *Genesis 25:19-26*

Review From Sunday's Sermon: The patriarch, Isaac, goes on to have two sons (twins) with Rebekah. Although twins, Jacob and Esau could not be more different. In their lifetime, sibling rivalry and family dysfunction will dominate. Yet, God has already pre-chosen one for His own purpose, plan, and glory. The actions and lives of both boys give us practical and wise teaching as Christ-followers.

1. Isaac's family is clearly a house divided. What unhealthy dynamic played out in the lives of the twins? Esau was a daddy's boy & Jacob a momma's boy. Rebekah even sabotaged the older for the younger. [Sadly, Jacob will even go on to do the same thing with his son Joseph]

2. Legally, Esau was in line for both the birthright and the blessing. What is the difference?

- Birthright: pertaining to the physical inheritance, land, & leadership
- Blessing: pertaining to the spiritual: God's protection, victory, and provision

3. What Reformed Doctrine is first clearly revealed in the Esau/Jacob drama? Sovereign Unconditional Election See *Romans 9:10-13*

4. The family turmoil will spill over into a legacy of conflict. When God told Rebekah she carried two nations, what were they? What historical conflict will play out?

- Esau = Edom See *2 Chronicles 28:17* [also Herod the Great/modern day Jordan]
- Jacob = Israel See *Genesis 32:28*

5. How do sometimes go "Jacob" (trying to circumvent God's plan/timetable)? Various personal answers and possibilities. We saw it with Abraham/Hagar (Ishmael).

5a. How do we sometimes go "Esau" (Trading the eternal reward for the temporary pleasure)? Also various personal answers and possibilities.

6. On Sunday, it was pointed out that Esau is an example of much of the Western Church today. Discuss how Esau exemplifies those who want the all the blessings (the goodies, fulfillment, power, protection, & stuff), but don't want the price of being God's in a fallen world. Pragmatic philosophy, self-esteem centeredness, and Osteen-like prosperity teaching have turned God into a cosmic santa claus and seekers into entitled consumers. This easy believe-ism promises much but delivers emptiness when troubles come. See *John 16:33, Luke 18:18-23, & Matthew 16:24-26*

7. Esau made a poor, carnal decision when he was at his weakest. Is this also a danger for us? Explain. How do we plan for those moments/times/seasons and avoid selling out for temporary relief? Various answers. First: know they will come. Second: know your weaknesses and most vulnerable times and situations (the devil knows them). Third: Have a plan. See *Ephesians 6:10-18*
[Great tools given to me years ago: H.A.L.T. Each letter represents a danger. Don't let yourself get too H = hungry, too A = angry, too L = lonely, or too T = tired. These are usually when we'll compromise.