

Maranatha Bible Church

A Destiny Forfeited • a destiny forfeited • Genesis 25:29-34 • 11/18/2018

Main Point

We must not give up so easily on the destiny God has for us.

Introduction

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Have you ever forfeited what could have been long term joy for something that brought you pleasure in the moment?

What are the long-term consequences of seizing what you want rather than waiting on what God wants?

What factors are in play that makes immediate satisfaction so seductive?

Most of us are familiar with the story of Jacob and Esau, the birthright and the stew. Just like other well-known stories from the Bible, it is easy for us to miss the fact that these stories are relevant to our lives today. The crafty Jacob sets his big brother Esau up and forces him to decide. The decision Esau was faced with was to choose momentary pleasure or lifelong provision. What did he choose? What do we choose?

We are all faced with situations in which we have to choose what we want or what God wants. Obeying Jesus is ultimately what God wants from his people. It is in this obedience to Jesus that his followers receive greatest joy and satisfaction. Unfortunately, there are times we act like Esau and forfeit what the Father wants for us and, therefore, miss the joy we would have received.

Understanding

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE a volunteer read Genesis 25:29-30.

These verses make it clear to us that Esau was exhausted! He came in from his hunt and all he had on his mind was that red stew. Esau was in a vulnerable position; he has a need, and Jacob could meet his need.

When you are exhausted in life, are you more vulnerable to deceit? Why or why not?

What current “pots of stew” have the potential to divert you from what could be?

Ask a volunteer to read Genesis 25:31-33.

Jacob wants Esau's birthright, so he comes up with an offer to get it. If Esau gives up his birthright, it means giving up all that he would one day receive from his father Isaac. This is a huge deal! The offer is a bowl of soup, or a lifetime of provision. For Esau to reject the offer would have meant furthering his current discomfort. The Father's blessing was his if he could endure a little longer. It seems like such an easy choice! Not for Esau. In his discomfort, he thought, "I'm so hungry, if I don't eat I'll die. What good is a birthright for a dead man?" So Esau chose the lesser.

What good thing have you missed because it would have caused discomfort to get it?

We have all witnessed people make decisions that seem so obviously destructive. In these situations, what are the factors that make less valuable things look more valuable than obedience to God?

What are the consequences of choosing the "lesser things"?

Ask a volunteer to read Genesis 25:34.

Can sinful things lead to momentary satisfaction? Explain.

Do you think Esau felt good about his decision as he was eating his bowl of soup?

How did Esau feel after he finished his meal?

Explain how we can avoid the pitfall of Esau and hold to the highest value what the Father has for us.

Application

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

When you are in your "pot of stew" moment what will it take for you to trust God through the discomfort?

When the deceit and lies come, with their promises of momentary value, who will help you stand firm in the truth?

Have you sacrificed God's best blessing for your life. If you are feeling any conviction for when you chose immediate satisfaction instead of waiting on God's provision. Take it to the Lord and ask for His forgiveness. God's forgives and sets people free, there may still be consequences, He will no longer hold it against you.

In a time of quiet prayer - surrender those things to the Lord and ask for His forgiveness.

Pray

Father, help me to see you as valuable above everything else. I know obedience to you always leads to what you have for me. Help me to trust you even when it is hard.

Commentary

| genesis 25:29-34

The text reminds us that the difference between Isaac's twin sons Jacob and Esau increased as they grew up. Esau became what we would call today an outdoorsman, a man more comfortable in the woods than around other people in the Semitic civilization at Beer Lahai Roi. Jacob, on the other hand, was a homebody. No problem so far; but when we read that Isaac loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob, we see nothing but trouble ahead. This expectation is pronounced when we see that Isaac's affection for Esau centered in his taste for wild game.

To illustrate his point, our writer offers one of the most famous anecdotes of the Bible: the great red stew swindle. Esau's casual handing over of his birthright affirms his carelessness and his casual attitude toward family and cultural tradition. The birthright carried with it the inheritance rights of the firstborn. With this simple little meal the prophecy of verse 23 came to pass.

Let's not rush too quickly over the interesting parenthesis at the end of verse 30. The name Edom means "red." Apparently it became a nickname for Esau related not to his redness at birth (v. 25) but to his fatal choice of the red stew. How interesting that the skillful hunter came back from the woods this time with no game as chef Jacob literally boiled vegetable soup. The hunter became the hunted, trapped by the bait of his brother's menu. The result was catastrophic.

Jacob, the secondborn, then had the birthright. The calculating, quiet man who recognized the spiritual value in the birthright manipulated his brother into giving it up. Perhaps knowing the oracle (v. 23), Jacob had been waiting for this opportunity. But God later made Jacob realize that his promises are not acquired in this way.