

January 25-Genesis 25

One of the great temptations in life is to pursue momentary pleasure instead of long term blessings. There are many examples of this, here are just a few: purchasing a home that puts unnecessary financial strain on your family, failing to grow in your faith by studying the Word and praying because you are too busy, or not saving money but instead deciding to use what you have left over to buy some item you really don't need but want. All of these temptations (as well as countless others) are very real and pose a serious danger to us. We see an example of the threat they pose to us at the end of Genesis 25 as we read about Esau settling for momentary satisfaction at the expense of his long term well-being.

First, we see that Esau had a short term need. Verse 29 states that "Esau came in from the field and he was exhausted." Translation here, Esau was tired and he didn't want to bother cooking something for himself. Here is a major pitfall for many people. So many make choices based on what is easier and less troublesome in the short term. However, short term ease almost never equates to long term blessing. Without exception, those things in life that are truly worth achieving take time, energy and sacrifice. This is true in our spiritual lives as well. Jesus said in Luke 9:23 "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." Notice that Christ says this is a daily battle of self denial for the purpose of discipleship. How many believers are still spiritually immature because they don't feel like waking up a few minutes earlier or staying up a few minutes later to spend time in God's Word and in prayer? We must understand up front that life is not easy and that in order to be who God has made us to be, we will be forced to work hard!

Second, Esau did not value his position in his family. We see in verse 34 that "Esau despised his birthright." To be the first born was a major benefit in the ancient world. Today, we don't really understand this because we live in a culture that emphasizes equal treatment for all children. In Esau's time, the firstborn was the most important and, therefore, stood to gain great material wealth and blessings as a result of their status. Eventually, Esau would reap the consequences of this action as Jacob, his younger brother, was blessed by Isaac and continued on as they namesake of the family.

When we don't value our position as a child of God, we are often very prone to sacrifice the blessings we can realize in following His commands and loving Him for fleeting pleasures. As a believer, you are in line for incredible blessings! You can live a life that is meaningful and joyful. You don't have to pursue the worthless treasures of this life, you can "store up treasures in heaven" (Matthew 6:20). Today, my prayer is that you would not sacrifice long term blessings for a short term need. Trust in God to provide what you need and be willing to work for long-lasting blessings. Also, I pray that you would value your position as a child of God and understand that you do not have to sacrifice all of the blessings that come with that position for short term, meaningless and dangerous worldly pleasures.