



“Despising the Eternal: Esau’s Tragic Trade”
1/19/25 Text: Genesis 25:27-34

1. The Contrast and Contention of the Family (vv. 27-28).

[27] 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.

2. The Crisis and the Compromise of Esau (vv. 29-33).

[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.

3. The Catastrophic Conclusion of the Story (v. 34).

[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.

4. The New Covenant Connection to the Story (Hebrews 12:15-17).

See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; [16] that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. [17] For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

Application Questions: Application/Discussion Questions: Esau prioritized immediate gratification over his birthright. Are there areas in your life where you are tempted to trade long-term blessings for short-term satisfaction? What steps can you take to resist that temptation? Jacob exploited Esau’s weakness to gain the birthright. How can we guard against manipulating others for personal gain, and how can we reflect Christ-like integrity in our relationships? Hebrews 12:16 calls Esau “unholy” for despising his birthright. What does this teach us about the importance of valuing the spiritual blessings God has given us? How can you prioritize those blessings in your daily life? Esau’s statement, “I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?” reveals a short-sighted perspective. How can we develop habits that keep us focused on eternal priorities rather than temporary circumstances? How does this story point us to Christ, who resisted every temptation and never traded God’s plan for fleeting gain? How can we rely on His strength and example when we face similar decisions?

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