

Genesis 25:21-34, Jacob, and Esau

Notes

The birth right involved both a material & spiritual dynamic, meaning the son of the birth right received a double portion of the inheritance, and he also became the head of the family and the spiritual leader upon the passing of the father. In the case of this family the birth right determined who would inherit the covenant God made with Abraham, the covenant of a land, a nation, and the Messiah.

Esau traded the lasting benefits of his birth right for the immediate pleasure of food. He acted on impulse, satisfying his immediate desires without pausing to consider the long-term consequences of what he was about to do.

We can fall into the same trap. When we see something, we want, our first impulse is to get it! At first, we feel intensely satisfied because we have obtained what we set out to get. But immediate pleasure often loses sight of the future. Have you acted on impulse to satisfy immediate desires? When we feel a sexual pressure, a marriage vow may seem unimportant. We might feel such great pressure in one area that nothing else seems to matter and we lose our perspective. Getting through that pressure-filled moment is often the most difficult part of over-coming a temptation.

But help is at hand, when we get these impulsive moments, stop, think about the whole picture. Is this what you really want, I mean really want? Who and what is at risk? Give yourself the time to make the right choice. Pray about it honestly to God, about how you feel and what you really seek.

Despite their shortcomings, prior to Esau and Jacob both Abraham and Isaac proved upright in the end, honouring God in their actions. God's covenant would not fail. He would form His people from their family, and through that family, bring His son into the world.

Questions:

Reflecting on this passage in Ephesians 1: 3-14 how does it inform your identity and birth right?

Mark talked about sharing one's faith with others, how do you go about sharing? Do you find it easy or hard? Why?

In James 1:13-15 temptation is only the start of the problem and gives birth to sin, how can we help each other to overcome our sinful natures and live in the freedom Jesus gives us?