



Sooke
Baptist
Church

Sunday
July 30
10am



An Impetuous Trade
Genesis 25:2-34



Coffee/Question

What was the
best / worst
deal you made?



Genesis 25:27

With only four words... **“the boys grew up”**... we jump from the birth of Esau and Jacob... to them being adults.

The two boys were not identical twins – neither in appearance nor in their interests and character.

Esau, like his uncle Ishmael, was a skilled hunter, and loved the open country.

Jacob was a quiet man, and preferred staying close to home.

We need to remember that for the first fifteen years of their lives, their grandfather, Abraham, was alive, and the boys would have spent time with him.

I am confident he would have told them of what God had done in his life... the stories of God's promises and faithfulness and of the covenant which He had entered into with Abraham.



Remember the two boys violently fought each other while in their mother's womb.

As they grew up this tension between them was acerbated by their parents – because Isaac loved Esau... and Rebekah loved Jacob.

For some people it causes offense, because the people whose stories are told in the Bible were not pristine, which then leads some to conclude that their inclusion in the Bible means God approved of what they did.

The Bible doesn't hide the flaws of those whose stories it tells. This is one of the reasons we know the Bible is God breathed. If it was simply a human book, the sordid details would have been airbrushed or not even included.

Remember Sarah and Hagar?
Remember Lot and his two daughters?
Remember the sons of Eli?
Remember King David's sordid family?
Remember Solomon who married a thousand women?

Without question, Isaac and Rebekah's marriage, as well as their family life was messy.

But God's Rescuer... who would be a descendant of Abraham would come into the world in order to save sinners... and their flawed marriages... and their messy families.

The story told in the Bible purposefully and repeatedly impresses upon humanity our need for God's salvation.



In these details we see in Esau an impulsiveness, even a carelessness... towards his birthright.

It wasn't something he considered to be of great value.

In the case of Jacob, we see him setting a trap for his brother. And this is fascinating to read about.

Esau would have studied the ways of the animals he hunted.

He could not have become a skilled hunter without doing so.

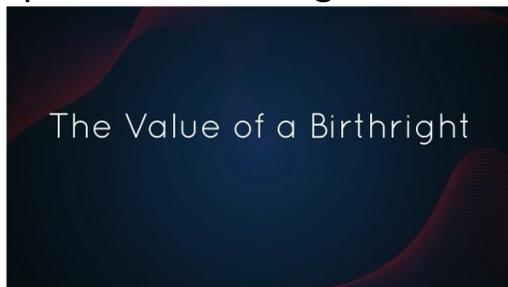
And yet he didn't observe that Jacob had carefully studied his behavior.

Unknown to Esau, he the hunter had become the hunted.

On that particular day, Jacob purposefully had lentil stew cooking. And when his brother demanded some of it, as Jacob anticipated he would, Jacob was ready to spring his trap: “Before I give you the stew, agree to sell me your birthright.”

And Esau foolishly agreed.

Before we go any further let’s clarify what the Bible means when it speaks of a birthright.



- A birthright gave the firstborn within a family a privileged status and a position of honor.
- When the father of a family died, the firstborn then became both the leader and the protector of the family.
- The firstborn would receive as his inheritance a double portion of his father’s estate.
- And in the case of Abraham’s descendants, the one who possessed the birthright also inherited the blessings of the covenant which God had made with Abraham.

What Esau traded for a bowl of soup was of great value, which makes Jacob’s actions all the more reprehensible.

Jacob maliciously schemed to defraud his brother.

And Esau?

The Bible says that he despised what his brother coveted.

Esau despised his birthright because... ultimately... he despised the LORD.

And here again the Bible confronts us with an issue that was not unique to Esau or Jacob.

The message of Romans 1 is difficult for every person to hear, let alone receive.

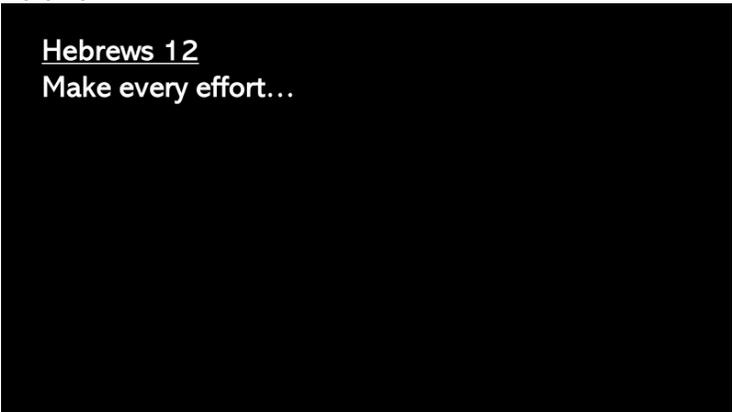
Because of sin that has invaded our human nature, we do not instinctively value God, honor him or love him.

In fact, it is in our very nature to resist God's authority over us, which leads us to despise him.

Only God can save us from the incurable disease of sin that has infected the soul of every person and turned all of life upon the earth, upside down and inside out.

The book of Hebrews makes a very specific application of this incident in Genesis 25... to the followers of Jesus.

Therefore, it is important for us to read the Hebrews passage and then apply it to our lives as followers of Jesus.



Hebrews 12
Make every effort...

Why are the followers of Jesus... told to make every effort?

Because... when a person receives Jesus, God makes them to be a new person... that is, God creates in them a new nature that is alive to him.

Having done so, God sends his Spirit to make his home in Jesus' followers.

Our bodies become the temple of God.

It is through the Spirit who lives within us... that grace from God is mediated to us.

What specifically is the follower of Jesus urged to do?

Hebrews 12

Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

God does not ask his people to do something for which his grace is insufficient.

When he urges us to make every effort... it is because we can.

This is the confirmation of Philippians 4:13.

For I can do everything
through Christ, who gives
me strength.

Philippians 4:13

It is important to the LORD that his people draw upon and utilize his grace which he freely gives to them.

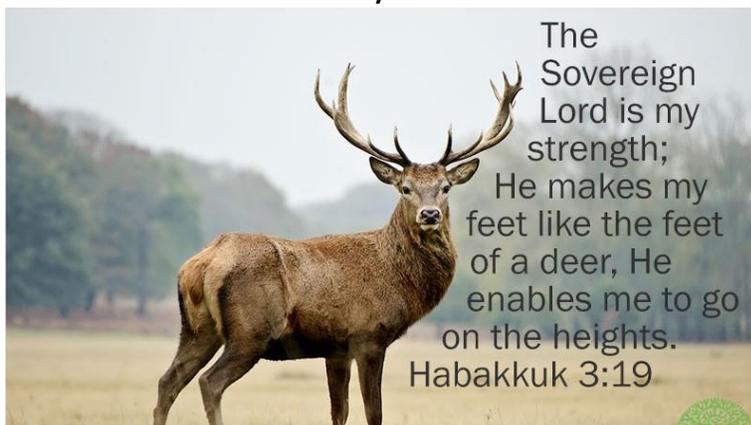
In this regard the Christian life is a supernatural life.

Hebrews 12

Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one misses the grace of God...

The prophet Habakkuk by faith lived in dependence upon God's grace in a time and in circumstances which were incredibly difficult.

This was his testimony...



“The Sovereign LORD is my strength.”

Then using a vivid word picture which drew upon nature, he wrote...

“He makes my feet like the feet of a deer.

He he enables me to go on the heights.”

Habakkuk “walked on the heights.”

He didn't just endure the things happening around him and to him.

Habakkuk in dependence upon the grace of God... made every effort to walk in fellowship with the Sovereign LORD... and as he did so, he didn't simply exist, but thrived.

Hebrews 12

Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

See to it that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son.

Unlike Habakkuk, Esau missed the grace of God. He didn't value his birthright because he didn't value the LORD. Rather than drawing upon the grace of God as his grandfather had done, Esau lived his life as if God and his blessings were of no value.

This is why Esau made an impetuous trade... giving away the eternal for something temporal.

But this is what humanity has repeatedly done since the day our first parents disobeyed God and sin and death entered into human experience.

Earlier in the book of Hebrews... God gave this counsel –

“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts...”

God warns that when someone hears his voice they are to respond immediately and not presume they will be able to do so at some future point.

Look at what happened to Esau.

Hebrews 12

Afterwards, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. He could bring about no change of mind, though he sought the blessing with tears.

Is this passage saying that Esau later repented, and God rejected him? It is here that we must interpret Scripture using Scripture, or we risk drawing conclusions that are incorrect.

In the first letter to the church at Corinth, Paul had given counsel regarding a specific incident that had caused the church to sorrow.

In the second letter to the church, Paul explained the difference between worldly sorry that leads to death... and godly sorrow that leads to repentance.

2 Corinthians 7:8-10

Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter,
I do not regret it...
I am happy, not because you were made sorry,
but because your sorrow led you to repentance.
For you became sorrowful as God intended...
Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to
salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly
sorrow brings death.

Then in the next verse Paul described for the church what repentance looked like.

2 Corinthians 7:11

This godly sorrow has produced in you:

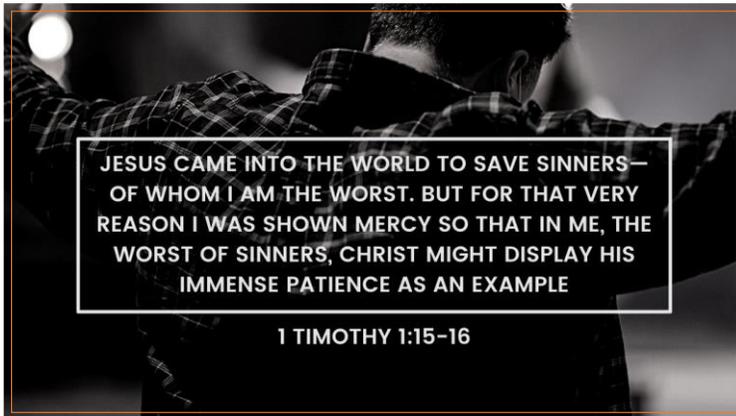
- earnestness
- eagerness to make right
- indignation
- alarm
- longing
- concern
- readiness to see justice done

This passage helps us to understand that in the case of Esau, his tears were... worldly.

This is why he was rejected.

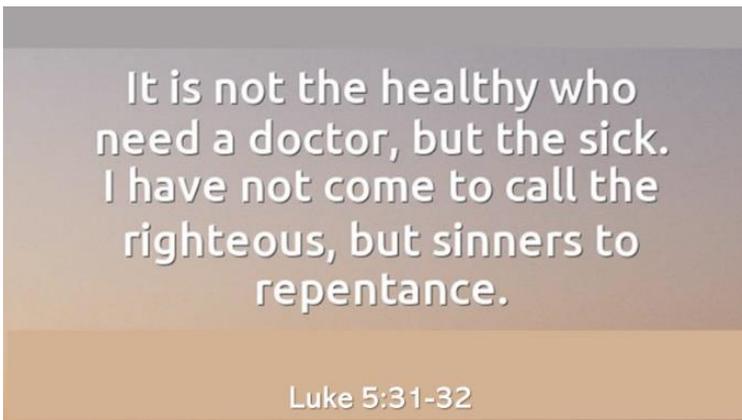
He did not repent of his sin.
This is why he could bring about no change of mind.
His heart did not love or treasure God.

I remind you that the grace of God is greater than our sin.
The testimony of the apostle Paul confirms this.



Paul was a blasphemer and a hater of Jesus Christ.
He was a violent murderer of Jesus' followers.
But God saved him! Why?
Because Paul repented of his sin and believed in Jesus.
And so... in the worst of sinners, God demonstrated his immense
patience and grace.

Jesus said...



Jesus did not come to rescue good people, for there are none as God is
good – he came to save sinners and that is who we all are.

Having been gripped by God's grace, for that is how we are saved... the book of Hebrews urges the followers of Jesus to hold tight to the grace of God and to make every effort to be holy, to live in peace with all, to guard our heart from bitterness and to avoid sexual immorality.

When we come home to God this is what we come home to...

Hebrews 12:22-24

You have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God.

You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven.

You have come to God, the judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a better covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

We have a glorious God and Savior.

Scripture urges us to cherish Him.

People of God... make every effort not to lose your first love.

We have been given grace from heaven, that is always enough.

God's Word urges us to not settle for mediocrity.

Church of Christ... let us make every effort to pursue holiness with godly passion.

We have an unshakable hope.

The Bible teaches us to not live timidly.

Let us make every effort to live boldly.

For the renown of the Glorious Three-in-One.