

# Esau, A Worldly Man

## Gen. 25:29-34

### I. A Brief History of Esau

#### A. Esau's Family

Grandson of Abraham THE man of faith  
 Son of Isaac – the one sacrificed to God  
 Brother of Jacob – Israel  
 Uncle of the Patriarchs

if blood relations give you a leg up on faith, Esau should have fully had it.

let us never say that because of this or that external circumstance or childhood training that this could never be us.

#### B. Esau's Wives

**Gen. 26:34,35** “And when Esau was forty years old he married Judith the daughter of Beerli the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite;  
**35** and they brought grief to Isaac and Rebekah.”

Shows again how Esau is set on worldly things, he did not marry from his kin like Isaac married of the evil Canaanites.

*Doesn't say that the wives really troubled him – maybe he liked their pagan ways, but the godly parents sure didn't like it*

The went to great pains to make sure that his brother didn't repeat the same mistakes.

**Gen. 28:1-9** “So Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and charged him, and said to him, “You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan.

**2** Arise, go to Paddan-aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father; and from there take to yourself a wife from the daughters of Laban your mother's brother.

**3** And may God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples.

**4** May He also give you the blessing of Abraham, to you and to your descendants with you; that you may possess the land of your sojournings, which God gave to Abraham.”

**5** Then Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Paddan-aram to Laban, son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau.

**6** Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan-aram, to take to himself a wife from there, and that when he blessed him he charged him, saying, “You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan,”

**7** and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and had gone to Paddan-aram.

**8** So Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan displeased his father Isaac;

**9** and Esau went to Ishmael, and married, besides the wives that he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebaioth.”

Tried in vain to make things right by marrying one of Abraham's descents as well.

married one of Ishmael's daughters – like a lot of folks who make a desperate attempt to do something spiritual they only make it worse.

Like so many pathetic attempts of wayward children to make some effort to make their parents happy - but they won't do the thing that's really needed - get themselves right with God.

### C. Esau's End

Rebekah barren for 20 years

When Jacob and Esau born prophecy about them and their descendants

**Gen. 25:21-23** “And Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord answered him and Rebekah his wife conceived.

**22** But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is so, why then am I *this way*?" So she went to inquire of the Lord.

**23** And the Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb; And two peoples shall be separated from your body; And one people shall be stronger than the other; And the older shall serve the younger."

When Isaac and Esau find out about the deception of Jacob to get the blessing, the prophecy is repeated.

**Gen. 27:38-41** “And Esau said to his father, "Do you have only one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father." So Esau lifted his voice and wept.

**39** Then Isaac his father answered and said to him, "Behold, away from the fertility of the earth shall be your dwelling, And away from the dew of heaven from above.

**40** And by your sword you shall live, And your brother you shall serve; But it shall come about when you become restless, That you shall break his yoke from your neck."

Esau's curse - No peace or prosperity

Later history of Edom - rich country until Israel took land. David made them a part of his kingdom.

Later rebelled and helped Babylon. Between Testaments they were made part of Judah again. Taken over by the Romans with Judah, lost national identity in 70 A.D.

## II. Esau's Defining Moment

### A. A Weak, Weary and Hungry

**Gen. 25:27-34** “When the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but Jacob was a peaceful man, living in tents.

**28** Now Isaac loved Esau, because he had a taste for game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

**29** And when Jacob had cooked stew, Esau came in from the field and he was famished;

**30** and Esau said to Jacob, "Please let me have a swallow of that red stuff there, for I am famished."

Therefore his name was called Edom.

**31** But Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright."

**32** And Esau said, "Behold, I am about to die; so of what *use* then is the birthright to me?"

**33** And Jacob said, "First swear to me"; so he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.

**34** Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew; and he ate and drank, and rose and went on his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright."

The birthright was 1.) the double portion of the inheritance.

2.) In the days of the patriarchs it also had the right to be head of family

(with the promises made to this family, heading it would be a truly great thing.)

and 3.) also the blessings of the father, which in this family were considerable.

*Ishmael did not get the birthright because he was a born according to the flesh.*

*Esau did not get the birthright because he lived after the flesh.*

1. Esau Hungry, so asks Jacob to feed him.

2. Jacob would in exchange for his birthright.

3. What good a birthright if he thought he was on the verge of death?

One great moment –seemingly insignificant at the time - determined his fate.

But in that important moment he acted in a way consistent with his character.  
 When our guard is down we act in the way most consistent with our character.  
*We don't make all of our decisions when we are at our best, SO MAKE SURE YOUR WEAK  
 TIMES ARE STILL GODLY ONES!*

B. Why did Esau make such a foolish decision?

1.) Esau Failed to see His True Situation

a.) Acted Rashly

w/o thought, going on impulse.

Would his parents have let him starve?

Would brother Jacob have really let him die?

b.) Esau Treated a Temporal Problem Like a Desperate Situation

Many do the same, by making their problems overwhelming,

**Matt. 6:28-34** “And why are you anxious about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin,

**29** yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory did not clothe himself like one of these.

**30** But if God so arrays the grass of the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, *will He* not much more *do so for* you, O men of little faith?

**31** Do not be anxious then, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'With what shall we clothe ourselves?'

**32** For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

**33** But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.

**34** Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. *Each* day has enough trouble of its own.”

Was Esau anxious? Sure he was.

Are not others anxious also?

Those who say they can't make it if they don't cheat on taxes, work every Sunday, give less than should, etc....would God let them starve for doing right?

**Ps. 37:25** “I have been young, and now I am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Or his descendants begging bread.”

Do we sing “God will take care of you”? and then act like Esau?

**Mark 10:29-31** “And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

**29** Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And *yet* not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.

**30** But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

**31** Therefore do not fear; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

Divorce – Suicide – Theft – Cheating etc. Will these things really give a lasting answer?

2.) Esau Didn't Value His Birthright

a.) Traded His Father's Inheritance for a Bowl of Beans

He could have had the headship of God's people. Had he been worthy God wouldn't have given it to the younger. Had he been worthy he could have been “Israel,” instead of his brother.

We also need to realize the value of our inheritance.

**Eph. 1:11** “also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will”

**Rom. 8:15-17** “For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”

**16** The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

**17** and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* in order that we may also be glorified with *Him*.”

**1 Pet. 1:4** “to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you”

### b.) People Make the Same Trade Daily

**Mark 8:36-37** “For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?  
**37** “For what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Trading Christ for friends, mammon, sleep, TV, job.

Family for one night of passion.

Trade health for drugs, alcohol, job.

### 3.) Esau Didn't Want to be Inconvenienced

He did not have the patience to endure short-term discomfort.

People often faithful as long as they can work God into their schedule.

Things don't go our way, we want God to give us a quick fix

How many people take rapid refunds...even though the “rapid” will take half of “return”!

This does not make for Christian endurance.

**2 Tim. 3:12** “And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”

We begin to justify...“Surely God wants me happy!”

God did not promise us a rose garden, but rather a way to overcome

**1 Cor. 10:13** “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.”

**1 Pet. 5:6-10** “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

**7** casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.

**8** Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

**9** But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

**10** And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you.”

When does the perfecting, confirming, strengthening and establishing come?

not only after a little while? but after suffering a little while.

but that's now how we like to do it now days.

Churches and individuals have adopted the religion of convenience

**1 Kings 12:28-30** “So the king consulted, and made two golden calves, and he said to them, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem; behold your gods, O Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt.”

**29** And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.

**30** Now this thing became a sin, for the people went *to worship* before the one as far as Dan.”

because it was too far to go to Jerusalem many went as far as Dan  
– doing good always seems a trouble to those who have the mind of the world  
like those who will sit in the hot sun at the baseball game on wooden bleachers but the meeting  
house is too hot and the seats uncomfortable  
or those who spend all day and all kinds of money going to a football game and tailgate party, but  
don't have the time to make services or the money to put into the plate

*Basically, Esau did just what he wanted to do - and that made him utterly worldly.*

INV.

Esau was not the first or the last to make such a choice (consider Eve).

We must be reminded to look beyond our noses

**2 Pet. 1:9** “obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.”

Some Things you do you will not be able to set right later.

**Heb.12:14-17** “Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

**15** See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;

**16** that *there be* no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a *single* meal.

**17** For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.”

don't let physical things become more important to you than the lasting things - the eternal things

Esau is our very example of what not to be.