

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS  
ENCOUNTERING CHRIST

Jacob and Esau

Still  
Alive And Well

Hebrews 11:20 and Genesis 25:27-34

DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NV • MAY 31, 2026

ALL SCRIPTURES ARE PRINTED VERBATIM WITH TRANSLATIONS NOTED • CHAIR BIBLE PAGE # 18 (OT SECTION)

IN SOME PLACES, GOD'S WORD IS UNDERLINED WITH DOTS WITH PASTOR JOE'S COMMENTARY IN THE BRACKETED, LIGHTER FACED TEXT.

**Hebrews 12:15-17, NASB95** -<sup>15</sup> See to it that no one comes short [Gk: ὑστερέω, *hus-ter-EE-ō*, "to have a need that cannot be met"] of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled [Gk: μιαινω, (*mi-AA-in-ō*) "to become spiritually contaminated and morally filthy"]; <sup>16</sup> that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. <sup>17</sup> 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.

**Hebrews 12:16, KJV 1900** -<sup>16</sup> Lest there be any fornicator, or profane [lit., "unholy"; "fane" (Latin) lit., a *sacred enclosure*; "profane" lit., *secular or unholy*; Latin terms to describe parts of the Temple] person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

## A. Today's Text

### I. Privilege Possible

**Genesis 25:21-25, HCSB** -<sup>21</sup> Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife because she was [20 years] childless. The LORD heard his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. <sup>22</sup> But the children inside her struggled with each other, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. <sup>23</sup> And the LORD said to her: Two nations [Edom to the south (Esau) and Israel to the north (Jacob)] are in your womb; two people [Esau—strong, rugged, secular; Jacob—personal, imperfect, spiritual] will come from you and be separated [Esau—loved by

his father; Jacob—loved by his mother]. One people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger [This was contrary to the custom in those times when the elder son, at the father's death, received a double share of the inheritance and became the recognized head of the family]. <sup>24</sup> When her time came to give birth, there were indeed twins in her womb. <sup>25</sup> The first one came out red-looking, covered with hair like a fur coat, and they named him Esau ["Esau" means *hairy*; "Jacob" means *heel-grabber*].

### 2. Privilege Despised

**Genesis 25:32, HCSB** -<sup>32</sup> "Look," said Esau, "I'm about to die, so what good is a birthright to me?"

### 3. Privilege Lost

**Genesis 25:33, HCSB** -<sup>33</sup> Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to Jacob and sold his birthright to him.

### 4. Privilege Lamented

**Hebrews 12:17, NASB95** -<sup>17</sup> 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.

## B. Application

### 1. Jacob and Esau are still alive and well on the Earth.

Jacob	Esau
He desired what God desired.	He despised what God valued.
He waited on what God promised.	He overvalued what satisfied him temporarily.
He sought eternal blessings over temporal blessings.	He traded eternal blessings for immediate relief.

### 2. Esau sold what God gave for what the world offered.

### 3. Esau sold more than a birthright; he lost a destiny.

### 4. Israel (Jacob) lives today; Edom (Esau) disappeared forever.

### 5. Jacob was spiritual and Esau was secular.

"Esau's great fault was that he put the world in the place of God. He chose the creation over the creator; the moment over the eternal." - C.H. Spurgeon

"Jacob was a man with faults, but he had this redeeming quality—he valued the blessings of God." C.H. Spurgeon

"Esau preferred the pleasures of the moment over the blessings of God which are eternal." - C.H. Spurgeon