

THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE | GEN 25:28-34 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 10/22/2023

I. *The Election of Esau (30,32,33b,34b)* | II. *The Election of Jacob (29,31,33a,34a)* | III. *The Election of God (Rom 9:10-13)*

INTRO: Today we will zero in on this section of scripture because I see certain principles that cannot be glossed over. This famed passage covers **the incident between Jacob and Esau and the selling of a birthright**, which provides us with **a snapshot of free-will and divine election**. **Practically**, this lesson will challenge us to examine our own hearts toward God, the things He desires in us and our choices. I've entitled this sermon, **THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE (Gen 25:29-34)**

◆ **It all Began when Jacob Cooked a Killer Stew (29)** – A **savory red stew** made of lentil beans, **so aromatic** that it appealed to one's sense. – Like Grandma's Apple Pie or like Coffee & Bacon in the morning, **it aroused the sense of smell to everyone nearby**. – At some point, Esau came in from the field empty-handed, exhausted and extremely famished, and there it was, **Jacob's Stew**, it was **ready for consumption!** – Now, because **Jacob's name** means "*heal catcher*" or "*deceiver*," it's safe to presume that Jacob may have planned the timing of this meal. It may also have been happenstance, God knows! Nevertheless, the passage suggests that Jacob was immediately aware of an advantage.

◆ **The Stew Appealed to Esau's Appetite (30)** – He immediately cried out to Jacob... **"FEED ME!"** which suggested that **Esau's ONLY CONCERN was his BELLY!** He Smelled the stew, he Saw the stew, but now he desires to Eat the RED STEW. – I found it interesting that Moses associates the word Edom with the Stew and Esau's name. {*Heb. RED = adom*}, *His descendants would later be labeled EDOM, the red people. (Which later became enemies of Israel)*

The appetite of Esau later exposed Esau's overall biblical character,

i.e., a man concerned with fleshly preferences rather than spiritual preferences.

*As we shall see, Esau preferred **Worldly Values** rather than **Godly Values**.*

Let's examine his choices...

I. ELECTION OF ESAU (30,32,33b,34b) – Esau was Isaac's firstborn son who grew to become **mighty hunter (27)**. He enjoyed wandering in the field looking for game. He was a manly man, who was greatly favored by Isaac. – **He chose to be a hunter by his own election!** (*Interestingly enough, Hunting wasn't really necessary for their tribe because they already had an abundance of livestock*). Esau was loved/favored by Isaac, but Jacob was loved/favored by Rebekah (**v.28**). **As a result, FAVORITISM played a great part in shaping their propensities**, which in turn greatly impacted their LIFE CHOICES.

- Although our upbringing has much to do with how we select, we all have the ability to select that which is right in the eyes of God. **A moral compass if you will.**
- **To "ELECT" is to choose.** It's a Power and Right that God has given to every human being... **THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE!** – Our choices in life will ultimately equal our overall character, which God knows altogether! (**Heb 4:13**) *And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.* – God knows the choices we make if they are good or bad, right or wrong.

A. Esau's Choices Reflect his Primary Concern for Self-gratification.

1. **(30)** – *"Please feed me... for I am weary..."* (*Intense fleshly craving*)

2. (32) – “Look, I am about to die; what is this birthright to me” (He Devalued his birthright)
3. (33) – He “swore to Jacob” and “sold his birthright” (In a 10 second exchange)
4. (34b) – Esau then “ate, drank, arose and went his way!” – This was “his way!” His actions were hopeless, as he saw so no immediate benefit in the birthright blessing, so he sold it! Getting his physical appetite filled was more important to Esau than receiving God's blessings.
 - Some may read this passage and conclude...Esau was just hungry, a man’s gotta eat! But we must learn to examine what the whole Bible says of the matter!

B. Esau Elected to Live Contrary to God’s Will (tt. Heb 12:15-17) – What does this passage teach us? Esau was not just hungry, (v.16) tells us that he was also a *fornicator* and *profane!*

1. **As a Fornicator**, he was unrepentant of his sexually immoral lifestyle. – Anyone who chooses this practice is in danger of apostasy because they become more and more desensitized to the Holiness of God! (*if Sin separates, then the practice of it brings damnation*)
2. **A Profane Person** is a “*godless*” person. – **Esau was Godless!** He was “*without god.*” The Merriam-Webster Dict. defines *godless* as “*not acknowledging a deity or divine law.*” The godless have no respect for God; their thoughts and words are profane; they act in impious and wicked ways. [*Syn. agnostic, atheistic, freethinking, iconoclastic, and irreligious.*]
3. **Later, Esau regretted what he had done (Gen 27:30-4),** but (v.17) makes clear that *Esau failed to genuinely repent!* – He desired God blessings of the double inheritance, but he did not want God! (*As the case with so many who play Christians.*)
 - **If we claim to be genuinely part of the Church of God,** then we *will be sensitive to the conviction of the Holy Spirit* when even the slightest lust in our flesh appears!

All throughout scripture we are warned that...

B. Fleshly Appetites such as Esau’s are to be Avoided!

1. **The Command: (Rom 13:14)** *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts.* (*It desensitizes you to that which is pleasing to God! – As seen in Esau’s Life*)
2. **The Battle: (1 Pet 2:11)** *Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from **fleshly which war against the soul!*** – Also, (Gal 5:17) *For the **flesh lusts** against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the **flesh**; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.*
3. **The Focus: (1 Pet 4:2)** *that [we] no longer should live the rest of [our] time in the **flesh** for the **lusts of men, but for the will of God.*** (*Our lives are given to us by grace and are to be lived for his glory!*)

P/A – Esau Elected to sell his birthright for a mere morsel of bread, he accepted the oath without hesitation, and the deal was done! The record reads, “**Thus Esau DESPISED his Birthright.**” *He therefore became known for being irreligious.*

Now Let’s examine the...

II. ELECTION OF JACOB (29,31,33a,34a) – Jacob’s name was truly characteristic of his disposition: *Supplanter, Heel-catcher,* and *deceiver* because Jacob wanted to be first, and God knew this about him. – As I study Jacob’s life, I see that he has received a bad report...

Scripture says that he was a **“mild man” (27)**, but that translation can also mean **complete** or **perfect!** Yes, we know that he **dwelt in tents, but that just means that he was a Homeboy!** Yes, we know that he was **momma’s boy (28)**, but he also became skillful in household management. Jacob was fully aware of what it took to care for his father’s home, he also cared about its future.

- **When we are born**, we all have different dispositions, characteristics and talents that can be used for good or for evil, but we select how. **In our immaturity or inexperience, we often make mistakes!** Our passions can often be misunderstood by others. I believe this is the case with Jacob.
- **From the womb Jacob had this drive**, and as a child he was moved by the stories of his grandfather Abraham and even his parent’s testimony of faith. But I believe **his mother Rebekah made the greatest impact on him** *as she told him of the struggle in her womb*. And how Jacob was to be the leader and Esau would serve him **(23)**. This contributed greatly to his hunger for God and the desire to make things happen. *And so now we see how...*

A. Jacob’s Choices Reflect his Primary Concern for God. *He was clever and sharp-witted so...*

1. **(29)** – **He cooked a stew** (*He was well planned and prepared to do anything*)
2. **(31)** – **“Sell me your birthright”** (*He was willing to ask, because he valued the Birthright Blessing*)
3. **(33)** – **“Swear to me”** (*He was cunning to request an oath for assurance for the birthright*)
4. **(34)** – **Jacob gave Esau Bread & Stew** (*He sealed the deal!*)

B. Jacob saw an opportunity and jumped on it! He wanted assurance now! But many still question his methods. – Even though Jesus would later say, **“Blessed are those who Hunger and thirst for righteousness...”** (Matt 5:6), **Jacob’s actions would only divide their family in the near future.** – *Here again is the lesson of learning to trust and wait on God to bring His plans to fruition!*

P/A – Jacob Elected to barter for the Esau’s birthright...and he bought it! But did he really?

This action along with the later act of deceiving his father Isaac for the **“actual words of blessing,”** **DID NOT SECURE THE BLESSING...** it only complicated his life, causing many years of hardship and struggle. Funny thing is, the promise of God was already his if he would have just surrendered to the...

III. ELECTION OF GOD (Rom 9:10-13) – Is often totally different that we presume it to be! **God’s Election was not based on human effort but rather on His sovereignty!** – From the beginning, **God knew the characters of both Esau and Jacob.** Because He is **omniscient**, He always knew that Esau would be Godless, and that Jacob longed to be blessed of God. (*they still had to make their own election!*)

- The special word that was given to Rebekah in **(Gen 25:23)** was later expounded on by the apostle Paul in **(Rom 9:10-13 NLT)** ... *When [Isaac] married Rebekah, she gave birth to twins. ¹¹ But before they were born, before they had done anything good or bad, she received a message from God. (This message shows that God chooses people according to his own purposes; ¹² he calls people, but not according to their good or bad works.) She was told, “Your older son will serve your younger son.” ¹³ In the words of the Scriptures, “I loved Jacob, but I rejected Esau.” [hated]* – Prior to their birth order God determined two things here: The firstborn (Esau) would serve the Younger (Jacob), and **God would love Jacob but hate Esau...**

- **{Heb. HATE – misos, to hate or detest; by extension, to love less}** – It has nothing to do with the human emotions of love and hate, but rather God’s election to choose one man and his descendants over another.
- **The Genesis record** does not even mention **God’s hatred towards Esau**, but over 1,000 years later it is mentioned of Esau’s descendants, **the Edomites (Oba 1:1-21)**. Furthermore, in **(Mal 1:1-3), God reaffirmed His love to Israel** (Jacob), even though they questioned how so. He brought out the age-old account stating that He had always loved/accepted Jacob and hated/rejected Esau according to His Divine Election.
- **You might say this is unfair of God**. The apostle Paul answers this in **(Rom 9:20) But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, “Why have you made me like this?”** Absolutely not!

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS: Because God obtains **THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE** according to His divine election, we should trust Him! As He has freely given us **THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE**, we should *Elect to do good always and obey His perfect will!* **It will save you from yourself and it will save you for eternity!**