

March 26th

A SON'S DEMISE PART ONE

“Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob.” **Genesis 27:41**

“Addiction. Divorce. Depression. Many of us have seen the downward spiral of God’s people. People with whom you once walked the halls. People with whom you once broke bread. People with whom you once shared a house. What once seemed so promising ended up in despair, loneliness, and deep regret. This cycle doesn’t just appear in our world. The fall of humanity began in Genesis 3 and it continues to show its ugly face throughout the entire Bible. It’s here that we turn to see the fall of Esau. What does God have to teach us through this man’s life story?

In the sermon series on Romans 9-11, we have faced uncomfortable truths of election and reprobation. Why did God choose Jacob and not choose Esau? Even further, why does God say that He loves Jacob and hates Esau in Malachi 1 and Romans 9? God appears to people as unjust, especially when God’s choice was before Jacob and Esau had even been born. It’s here in the pages of the Bible that we see God’s full role in salvation and see man’s position in salvation. Even as God elects people to save before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:3-4), people are always held responsible for their actions. We see this later in the life of Pharaoh, but not we can see it in Esau’s life.

This isn’t our first encounter with Esau. As you trace his life story, you’ll see a downward spiral that shows his ugly, sinful heart. Remember the event with the soup? His exact words were, “Of what use is a birthright to me?” At the end of the story, Moses states that “Esau despised his birthright.” God’s promises seem meaningless to Esau. You may be tempted to fast-forward to Jacob’s lies in chapter 27, but you’ll miss some important information that God drops in 26:34. The words almost appear as an asterisk: “When Esau was forty years old, he took Judith the daughter of Beerli the Hittite to be his wife, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite, and they made life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah.”

Isaac and Rebekah are burdened by Esau’s choices. Rebekah even describes her feelings as loathing her life because of the Hittite women (Gen 27:46). Esau runs on his lust. He takes whatever he wants and doesn’t care about the consequences. Observe what is said here: “So when Esau saw that the Canaanite women did not please Isaac his father, Esau went to Ishmael and took as his wife, besides the wives he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael.” Esau’s story shows us the toll that sin can take on someone’s life. Are we really surprised that Esau promises to kill his brother? What is surprising to me is that Esau wants to wait until his father dies. Nevertheless, we see his demise in these actions.

Do you know the ultimate story of Esau’s actions? His people were called the Edomites. There is an Edomite king known as Herod the Great that worked to keep King Jesus from his throne by murdering babies. That’s right, it all comes from Esau. What can we learn from this? Jacob and Esau highlight the importance of the road that we take in this life. The question is for you, which road will you take...hardness of heart leading to bitterness or a repentant heart that reaches for Jesus?

Spend some time reflecting on how important today’s decisions for Christ are. Ask God to help you be faithful to Him today.

For Further Reading: Genesis 36:1-43