



Sermon Highlights

The Divine Pattern: Understanding the Spiritual and the Natural Through Jacob and Esau

Sermon Summary:

This sermon explores the profound biblical pattern established in Genesis 25 regarding the two natures of humanity—the natural (earthly) and the spiritual (heavenly). Through the account of Jacob and Esau, Pastor Bruce reveals how God established a recurring theme throughout Scripture: the younger ruling over the older, symbolizing how the second Adam (Jesus Christ) would overcome the failure of the first Adam. The message emphasizes that this wasn't an afterthought of God but part of His sovereign plan before creation. The sermon challenges believers to move beyond basic salvation into spiritual maturity, understanding that true security comes from knowing God's Word deeply, not from feelings or casual faith. It calls Christians to recognize which nature they're living by—the earthly nature of Esau who despised his birthright, or the spiritual nature of Jacob who valued eternal things.

Key Points:

- The danger of parental favoritism in families, as demonstrated by Isaac loving Esau and Rebekah loving Jacob
- Isaac's example of prayer during Rebecca's twenty years of barrenness, contrasting with Abraham's tendency to act without praying
- Esau represents the natural, earthly man—described as red (of the earth), hairy (animal-like), and a hunter (worldly)
- Jacob represents the spiritual man—mild, dwelling in tents, and valuing the birthright
- The birthright included both family headship and spiritual priesthood of the family
- Esau's sale of his birthright for stew reveals he was a "profane" person who despised spiritual things
- The biblical pattern repeats throughout Scripture: Cain and Abel, Ishmael and Isaac, Esau and Jacob, Joseph and his brothers, David and his brothers

- The "younger ruling over the older" theme points to the Second Adam (Jesus) overcoming the First Adam's failure
- Adam's sin transferred the birthright of earth to Satan, the "prince of the power of the air"
- Christ as the Second Adam will reclaim the birthright and redeem planet Earth
- Believers who are "in Christ" bear His image and will rule and reign with Him in eternity
- The call to spiritual maturity—moving beyond being "babes in Christ" to knowing and teaching God's Word
- True salvation is not just confession of sins but a change of nature from earthly to spiritual

Scripture Reference:

- Genesis 25:19-34 (primary passage—the birth of Jacob and Esau, and Esau selling his birthright)
- 1 Corinthians 15:42-49 (the First Adam and the Last Adam; the natural body and spiritual body)
- Hebrews (reference to Esau as a "profane" or "unclean" person/fornicator)
- Revelation 4 (reference to Christ taking the scroll to redeem the earth)

Stories:

- The twenty-year barrenness of Rebecca and Isaac's prayer for a child
- The struggle of the twins in Rebecca's womb and God's prophecy that the older would serve the younger
- The birth of Esau (red and hairy) followed by Jacob grasping his heel
- Esau as a skillful hunter and man of the field versus Jacob as a mild man dwelling in tents
- Jacob cooking lentil stew and Esau coming in famished from hunting
- The transaction where Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of red stew
- The recurring biblical pattern: Cain and Abel (with Seth replacing Abel), Ishmael and Isaac, and later Joseph, David, and Samuel
- Adam's fall in the Garden and the transfer of earth's birthright to Satan

- Christ's redemption of the earth as portrayed in Revelation
- Personal illustration of raising an adopted daughter (Bailey) in older age, relating to Abraham and Sarah raising Isaac in maturity
- Anecdote about Mackenzie (Brim's wife) experiencing the baby moving actively during the previous Sunday service