Battling For Your Birthright

Greg Kline · Genesis 25:19–34

INTRODUCTION

- The question I want us to consider this morning as we study an example of Genesis chapter 25 is what is my passion for? Where is my zeal?
- How much do I value what God has done for me? … the truth is what we say and how we live aren't always revealing the same answer.

1 Esau Despised His Birthright

Genesis 25:29–34; Hebrews 12:12–17

- Esau made a big mistake, and how did it begin? Because Esau was very weak.
- Jacob is absolutely taking advantage of Esau. Esau is making an incredibly foolish decision to sell his birthright for food.
- That no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal.
- He was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

2 We Can Be Like Esau

Exodus 16:1–4; Matthew 5

- I think if I'm honest, I make the same trade or worse than Esau does. And it has to do with where my zeal for God is or is lacking.
- Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meatpots and ate bread to the full.
- Esau was so focused on his weakness that he was willing to trade the future and all of its attendant blessings that he had coming to him for this one moment of satisfaction.
- If we have a passion for God, we're going to see past the physical trials, even as tough and rigorous as they may be.

3 The Devil Often Acts Like Jacob

1 Peter 5:6–10

- The devil often is roaming around, acting like Jacob.
- Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him. Firm in your faith.
- We need to be aware the devil's out there looking for us, waiting to get us in a moment of weakness like Esau was in.
- We have to have the vision that Esau did not have. We have to trust in God for the long game.

4 An Inheritance Kept in Heaven for You

1 Peter 1:3–4; Galatians 3:29

- To an inheritance that is imperishable, that is undefiled and unfading, kept in heaven for you.
- We have to keep eternity in mind. Was this not exactly Esau's problem with the birthright?
- When we're mad, when we're heartbroken, when we're frustrated and bitter, we trade what God has offered us for a moment of what we might feel satisfactory revenge.

5 Am I Like Esau? What Is My Speech About?

Matthew 6:25–34; Philippians 2; Isaiah 53

- The easiest way to know how I'm like that is, what is my speech about? Is my speech full of the thanksgiving for what God has done?
- Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life.
- Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added to you.
- Esau was blinded by physical circumstances. And if we examine what we are saying, we'll find out whether or not we're like him.

6 What If Everyone Had My Level of Zeal?

Genesis 39:7–12; Romans 1

- How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?
- But he left his garment in their hand and fled and got out of the house.
- You know how you make that type of decision to flee the minute someone grabs your cloak, your garment? It's predetermined. It's whether or not you value God.
- If everyone had my level of zeal, would we be more like Esau? Or would we be more like Joseph?
- When we face him on the day of judgment, will we look to God and say, I did it your way?

THE CHALLENGE

Will you accept that challenge this morning? The idea that if we truly love God, or if we're truly thankful for what he's done, we'll recognize that his way is the only way.

MY NOTES