

**Series: Beginnings, Betrayal, Blessings**  
**Title: The Birthright and the Blessing**  
**Text: Gen. 25:29-34; 27**

As many grow older they consider how they will distribute their assets to family and to charities. Many of you have set up estates and laid aside funds for family members. Possibly you have set up a trust and they will distribute to your heirs according to your wishes.

Some have set aside funds to give to the church and to other charities that you wish to bless.

Many people have little or nothing to leave to family. But when there are assets, it is always good to leave a will. Families will be blessed if your desires are defined before you pass away.

### **The Birthright**

The Bible calls this inheritance a birthright. It had specific rules and wealth was given out according to those rules.

As the firstborn son, Esau automatically held the “birthright.” A birthright was an honor given to the firstborn, bestowing “head of household” status and the right to inherit his father’s estate. The son with the birthright would receive a double portion of whatever was passed down (see Deuteronomy 21:17). Yet, even before the twins were born, the Lord predicted that Esau would serve Jacob (Genesis 25:23).

The firstborn son would receive a double portion of the estate and the rest divided among brothers.

If there were two brothers, the eldest would receive 2/3 and the younger would receive 1/3. If 6 brothers, the eldest would receive 2/6 or 1/3 of it and the rest divided equally.

Today we are going to look at the 2 sons of Isaac and Rebecca and how they became enemies.

### **Rebekah gave birth to twins –**

- A hairy lad named Esau and the younger, Jacob, came out grasping hold of Esau’s heel.
- Esau became a hunter and Jacob stayed close to home
- Because Isaac had a love of a good steak, he favored Esau the eldest.
- But Rebekah had her favorite, the momma’s boy, Jacob.

**Esau was the eldest and the Birthright was to be his.**

## **Genesis 25: 29-34**

*<sup>29</sup>Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. <sup>30</sup> He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!" (That is why he was also called Edom.) <sup>31</sup> Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright." <sup>32</sup> "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?" <sup>33</sup> But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob. <sup>34</sup> Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left.*

So Esau despised his birthright.

## **What does it look like to despise a Birthright?**

- Esau chose to marry outside the faith
  - A Hittite, a Hivite and a daughter of Ishmael
  - <sup>8</sup> *So when Esau saw that the Canaanite women did not please Isaac his father, <sup>9</sup> Esau went to Ishmael and took as his wife, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael*
- Esau made life miserable for his father and mother
  - <sup>35</sup> *and they made life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah.*
- Esau saw no value in his father's life's work
- Esau gave no thought to a future ahead.

## **The prodigal despised his birthright**

Jesus describes another young man who broke his father's heart and took his inheritance and squandered it on wild living and loose women.

- He also despised his birthright and life with his father
- Only his own desires were in his heart and in his mind.

## **You and I despise our birthright**

So often we also despise the birthright.

- The birthright of our families
  - We focus on what we did not gain
  - We focus on what love we did not have
  - We focus on the sins of the father

**Illustration:** Letter to my father

- We neglect to see any and all of the inheritance we may have received.
- The birthright of our Lord

- Adopted as joint heirs
- Forgiveness of sins
- Victory over the flesh
- Present strength
- Eternal life
- We walk in negativity and brokenness and our past and despise the crosses power to bring forgiveness
- We marry the thoughts and values of this world and despise being the Bride of Christ

## **The Blessing**

We see that Esau showed disdain for his birthright, for his heritage, for his parents.

There are consequences when we despise the inheritance we have been given.

- Rebekah is very unhappy about Esau's choices and chooses to see to it that the blessing would not go to one who showed so much disregard for what was valued. (Genesis 27:46)

Years after the birthright had been thrown away and years after Esau had married a Hittite and made life miserable for his parents, the day came when the father's blessing would be bestowed. (Genesis 27:1-40)

Isaac is now old and blind

- He calls Esau to him and says that he does not know how much longer he would live so he wanted his son to hunt and fix him a meal, then he would receive the blessing of the Father. ("*...that my soul may bless you before I die.*")
- Rebekah hears this and while Esau is out hunting she sets Jacob up to fool his father to receive the father's blessing
- She fixes Isaac a great meal, she dresses her son in Esau's clothes and takes fun and places it on Jacobs arms and neck in order to fool the father.
- He does fool Isaac and he receives the blessing meant for the elder brother.

## **Isaac's Blessing to Jacob**

### **Genesis 27:27-29**

*<sup>27</sup>"See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field that the Lord has blessed! <sup>28</sup> May God give you of the dew of heaven and of the fatness of the earth and plenty of grain and wine. <sup>29</sup> Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may your*

*mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be everyone who blesses you!"*

### **Abundance Authority Anointing**

Esau comes back and finds that the blessing has been given already and he begs his father for even one blessing.

### **Isaac's Blessing to Esau**

#### **Genesis 27:39-40**

*<sup>39</sup>"Behold, away from the fatness of the earth shall your dwelling be, and away from the dew of heaven on high. <sup>40</sup> By your sword you shall live, and you shall serve your brother; but when you grow restless you shall break his yoke from your neck."*

### **Want War Wandering**

Hengstenberg's rendering is the best here, viz., **"to shake, sc., the yoke."**

- In the wild, sport-loving Esau there was aptly prefigured the character of his posterity.
- Josephus describes the Idumaeans (Edomites) as "a tumultuous and disorderly nation, always on the watch on every motion,

### **What is the Biblical Blessing?**

A patriarch's final blessing was important in biblical times as a practical matter of inheritance rights.

In addition, some final blessings included prophetic statements that reveal God's supernatural power at work through the men of His choosing.

While a birthright belonged to the firstborn son, anyone could receive a blessing.

In the time of the patriarchs, such blessings acted as a "last will and testament" and were highly prized as a means of revealing God's will.

Isaac gives this prophetic blessing to his son

Here's a good working definition—

**"The blessing is a carefully worded statement that expresses a parent's fondness for, confidence in, and recognition of your child."**

Later we see that Jacob also gives blessings to each of his sons in chapter 49. And these blessings come true. Jacob would go on to bless all twelve of his sons, and two of his grandsons.

The Blessing we can receive and can give to our families

## **FOUR ELEMENTS OF A BIBLICAL BLESSING**

### **MEANINGFUL TOUCH**

(v. 26-27). Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near and kiss me, my son." So he came near and kissed him.

### **SPOKEN WORDS**

This clarifies and amplifies your affectionate touches. Proverbs 18:21 says: Death and life are in the power of the tongue

### **AFFIRMING VALUE**

At the heart of what was transpiring as Jacob came near to his dad and his dad spoke over his life is an affirmation that he was special, that he mattered, that he was unique. In v. 27, Isaac pulls his son in close to kiss him and Isaac smelled the smell of his garments and blessed him and said, "See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field that the Lord has blessed."

### **SPECIAL FUTURE**

When you think about it, isn't that what God was doing in Jeremiah 29:11? I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for peace and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. This is what your future will look like. Don't be afraid to seize it as God's will, in God's strength.

## **The Divine Blessing from the Lord**

The Jewish people are all about blessings. It is foundational to their existence.

Each day they are to speak the blessing of the Shema

### **Shema:**

"Hear, O Israel: Adonai is our God, Adonai is One! Blessed is God's name; His glorious kingdom is for ever and ever! And you shall love Adonai your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might.

"Blessed are You, our God, Ruler of the universe, who creates the fruit of the ground."

They use this blessing for everything throughout the day

This word, baruch, comes from brachah (blessing), but with a small change in vowel, it becomes breicha—

baruch = Blessing - a wellspring of water or even a pool.

Today we see that God has kept His promise to turn the barren places of this land into wellsprings and pools of water:

**Isaiah 41:18**

*I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys. I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.*

**Isaiah 12:3**

*With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*

When Jesus ministered to the Samaritan woman at a well, He made the bold claim of being the Jewish Messiah.

There, He proclaimed Himself to be the source of living waters that leads to eternal life.

**John 4:14**

*...but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."*

**Challenge**

Let us not despise our inheritance, but live in the beauty of it.

Let us receive the blessing of His Touch, the blessing of His Words, the Blessing of His Value, and the Blessing of a Future

God has given you and me a birthright and a blessing.

Jesus is the water that refreshes and gives eternal life. You will never be thirsty again.