

Bible Summary: Genesis 25

Esau is the first fleshed out secular man. He has been trained by his appetites to demand what he wants when he wants it and he sells out his most important heritage for a bowl of soup. Believers are to be those that train their appetites to wait and this reminds us that God is ultimately in control and we don't have to live lives as slaves to our appetites or shoulder the world's problems. The New Testament demonstrates this with the story of Mary and Martha. Martha is a modern American who is miserable because she will not stop and wait on Jesus. Mary is centered and enjoying life because she does the "one needful activity".

Scripture

Genesis 25; Psalm 46:10; Psalm 27:14; Lamantations 3:25:26; Isaiah 40:31; Romans 8:25; Luke 10:38-42, 11:1-13

Bible Questions and Application

(These are here as an aid in facilitating conversation.

There is no obligation to run through **every** question listed.)

1. Which of the characters do you relate to the most? Esau or Jacob? Martha or Mary?
2. A birthright is a firstborn's right to the family's possessions and privileges--a valuable right that Esau treated with contempt and ultimately lost. What are some similar things in our lives that we should value but often do not?
3. Carl Jung once said, "Hurry is not of the devil; it is the devil." What do you think about this statement? Do you think it's true?
4. "Patience doesn't make perfect--it makes permanent."
 - a. Why is it important to be faithful in the mundane things?
 - b. How can practicing patience and endurance on a daily basis help prepare us for moments of great challenge ("birthright challenge")?
 - c. What steps can you take in your daily life to resist "now" culture? How can we invite God to be our personal trainer in practicing these things?
5. When Christ takes His rightful place as Lord of our lives, everything is ordered correctly. When we prioritize other things over God, even the best of intentions or desire for good deeds can disrupt this order.
 - a. What are some things in your life from which you might be tempted derive your sense of self-worth instead of from God?
 - b. How can we reconcile when the pursuit of our one true Love seems to be at odds with our need to fulfill immediate and tangible needs?

6. In Luke 10:41 Jesus says, "Mary has chosen what is better."
 - a. How can we be more like Mary?
 - b. What are some symptoms or identifiers that indicate that we are distracted from pursuing God, and what can we do to refocus ourselves in those moments?