

CGYG & LIFE Bible Study – Genesis 25:19 – 26:35

Read Genesis 25:19-34

-How long did Isaac and Rebekah have to wait before having children? What does this teach us about prayer?

-How does the birth of Jacob & Esau parallel Isaac's own birth?

-What is the meaning of the prophecy given to Rebekah in v.23? What does this prophecy teach us about God? (cf. Romans 9:10-16)

-What kind of person was Jacob, as seen in this passage?

-What kind of person was Esau (see also Gen. 26:34-35)? What was the significance of his birthright, and what does it mean that he 'despised his birthright'?

-What warning does the Bible give us from Esau's example (Hebrews 12:14-17), and how does this apply to us today? (you might also consider 1 Peter 1:3-9,13-21)

Read Genesis 26:1-35

-What similarities to Abraham's life are seen in this account of the life of Isaac?

-What did God promise to Isaac, and why? (v.3-5, 24; cf. Gen. 12:1-3, 13:14-16, 17:19) Did Abraham's obedience "buy" God's favor for Isaac? (v.5)

-Abimelech saw clearly that the LORD was with Isaac to bless him (v.28-29). In what ways do we see God's blessing on Isaac's life in this chapter?

-Many Christians believe that a life blessed by God means one that is free of hardships and suffering. Did God's blessing on Isaac's life guarantee him freedom from hardship and suffering?

-While Isaac is the patriarch given the least space in Genesis, what do we learn about his character in this chapter?

Aliens and strangers in the world

Isaac was a man of faith, who inherited God's promises to Abraham, the father of faith. As Isaac's firstborn, Esau's birthright was to inherit all those same blessings; yet, he despised these and sold them for a single meal. "History shows us that men prefer illusions to realities, choose time rather than eternity, and the pleasures of sin for a season rather than the joys of God forever. Men will read trash rather than the Word of God, and adhere to a system of priorities that leaves God out of their lives. Multitudes of men spend more time shaving than on their souls; and multitudes of women give more minutes to their makeup than to the life of the eternal spirit. Men still sell their birthright for a mess of pottage." (Donald Barnhouse)

Consider your life and your walk this evening. Are you, by your priorities and way of life, selling out your birthright for worthless things? Repent, and learn to live a life worthy of the calling you have received in Christ. "Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'" (1 Peter 1:13-16)