

246 IN THE BEGINNING

lesson 08— jacob

I. The Story- Part 1 (**Genesis 25-27**)

- A. Isaac and Rebekah had twins (ESAU was first, JACOB was second)
- B. After hunting and working hard in the field, Esau traded his BIRTHRIGHT to Jacob for some food

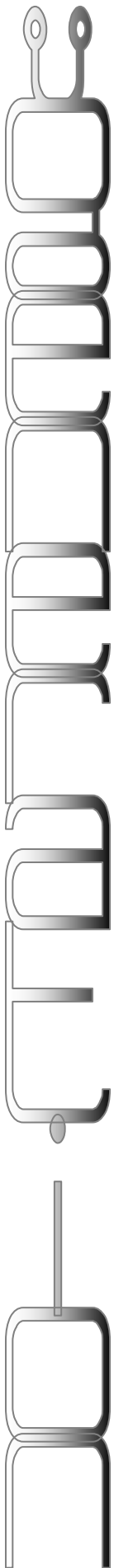
*Esau would become bitter over this bad decision (**Genesis 25:34**)

WHAT IS A BIRTHRIGHT? When Jacob asked Esau to sell him his birthright, he was looking to obtain a position that had both legal and spiritual benefits. In Bible times, the firstborn son enjoyed a favored position, which was his by “right of birth”. He was privileged to inherit a double portion of his father’s assets and could expect to receive a special blessing before the father died. After his father’s death, a firstborn son became the head of the family, carrying on the family name and even acting as the family priest. The inheritance rights of the firstborn were protected by law; a father could not give his benefits to a younger son. However, the firstborn himself could lose, forfeit, or sell his birthright.

- C. Jacob later tricked his father, Isaac, into giving him Esau’s BLESSING, making Jacob the head of the family when his father dies
 - *Jacob did this by pretending to be Esau while his father was blind and dying
- D. Esau HATED his brother even more and planned to KILL him (**Genesis 27:36-37, 41**)
 - *when Jacob heard this, he ran away

II. The Story- Part 2 (**Genesis 28-29**)

- A. Rebekah sends her son, Jacob off to find a WIFE
- B. Jacob met and fell in love with RACHEL
- C. Jacob agreed to work for Rachel’s father, Laban, for 7 years in order to marry her
 - *for those of you who like the romantic stuff...read **Genesis 29:20**
- D. After the 7 years, Laban made Jacob marry LEAH, Rachel’s oldest sister, first
 1. remember how Jacob deceived his brother... “what goes around, comes around”
 2. Jacob eventually marries both sisters, but loves Rachel the most
 3. from his 2 wives, Jacob would have 12 sons (the 12 tribes of Israel)



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III. The Story- Part 3 (**Genesis 32-33**)

- A. After around 15 years, Jacob returns to his homeland with his family
- B. Jacob sent messengers to Esau asking if he had FORGIVEN him
 - 1. the messengers came back saying Esau was coming with 400 men!
 - 2. Jacob was scared to death! (read **Genesis 32:11**)
 - 3. Jacob then split his family and those traveling with him in 2 groups, so 1 group could escape if they were attacked
- D. As they approached each other, Jacob bowed down, but Esau ran and EMBRACED him
 - *Read **Genesis 33:4**

IV. Application

- A. What goes around COMES AROUND. This doesn't mean that WE give people what they deserve. This means that God is in control and He often chooses to allow the same things we do come back to us. Don't forget, "*you reap what you sow*" (**Galatians 6:7-10**).
 - Old Testament laws had punishments "matching the crime"
- B. God teaches us lessons through TRIALS. When we become "hard-headed", God sometimes has to let us go through hard times (Jacob and Rachel) to turn us back to Him and do what is right (**Hebrews 12:5-7**).
- C. When we have wronged someone, we need to ADMIT to our mistakes. Too many times, we avoid the person we "wronged" or we act like it never happened. Humble yourself and admit your mistakes (**Matthew 5:23-24**).
- D. Be willing to forgive 70 x 7. No matter how many times, or how big...God commands us to forgive. Why should I forgive...because God forgave me (**Genesis 33:11; Matthew 18:21-22; Luke 17:3-4**).

Ask Yourself: Is there someone that I need to forgive?

Ask Yourself: Is there someone that I need to ask for their forgiveness?

Ask Yourself: What is God teaching/challenging me to do, and what am I going to do about it?