

# ESAU, A MAN WITH NO THOUGHT OF TOMORROW

By Keith Greer

"But Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright as of this day. And Esau said, "Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?" (Genesis 25:31-32)

Remember the story of Jacob and Esau? One day, after returning from the field, Esau was weary and very hungry, so he asked Jacob to feed him with some of the stew he had cooked. Jacob said he would, IF, Esau would sell his birthright. Since Esau thought he was at the point of death, he gladly exchanged that birthright for a bowl of nourishment. Why did Esau make such a foolish decision?

1. **ESAU FAILED TO SEE HIS SITUATION FOR WHAT IT WAS.** Do you think Esau's parents would have allowed him to die from hunger? Or for that fact, would Jacob have left him to die if he hadn't sold his birthright to him? What was a temporal problem, Esau treated like a "desperate situation". Many people do the same today by making problems "overwhelming", when in all truth are temporal. Remember the words which Jesus taught, " Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'" (Matt. 6:31,32) We need to learn to put our faith in God and understand he will see us thru life's problems!

2. **ESAU DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE TRUE VALUE OF HIS BIRTHRIGHT.** Esau traded his birthright, which would give him his father's inheritance and a place in genealogy, for a bowl of beans! It certainly is unfortunate, yet, people repeat the same exchange today. 'Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?' (Mark 8:37) According to Mark, if a man would gain the whole world, and lose his soul, he will lose everything! Today, many of God's children are making that exchange for money, possessions, family, occupations, and selfish desires. Why would anyone make such a foolish choice? Some Christians will lose their reward in heaven because they fail to understand the true value of God's promise. Someone once said, "we don't really appreciate the value of something until we no longer have it." Please consider that in the spiritual realm.

3. **ESAU DID NOT WANT TO BE INCONVENIENCED.** Esau had no patience or ability to suffer or endure some discomfort, even for a short period of time. People tend to be the same way today. We say we'll be faithful to the Lord, as long as it "fits into my schedule" and if things aren't going our way, we want the Lord to give us a quick solution. According to Paul, "Yes, and all who desire to live Godly In Christ Jesus will suffer persecution." (2 Tim. 3: 12) God did not promise us a "rose garden" but he did tell us we will be able to bear whatever trials come our way! (1 Corinthians . 10:13; 1 Peter. 5:7-8; Hebrews. 13:6)

God's people know that we will not live forever, Hebrews 9:27. All understand that death is something that will come upon the majority suddenly. None know the time when the Lord will return to judge the world, 2 Corinthians 5:10. One of God's most precious gifts He bestowed upon man is TIME. Yet, time that is wasted and used unwisely can have a terrible consequence concerning where one will spend eternity!

In this story of Esau, he was not the first to make a choice like this, nor will he be the last!  
We must be reminded to "look beyond our noses" regarding our choices and how it will affect our future.  
Remember not to seek a "quick fix" to our temporal problems! \*\*\*