

## “Family Traits” Genesis 25:27-26:35

### **TWO SONS—TWO FUTURES. GENESIS 25:23, 27-28**

1. The LORD’s declared Word about Jacob and Esau. v.23
2. Jacob and Esau had different dispositions and interests. v.27-28
  - Esau was more aggressive, an outdoorsman. Jacob was a man of ‘peace’ who stayed near home.
  - Another sign of conflict was a split between their parents. v.28

### **AN IMPORTANT FAMILY STORY. GENESIS 25:29-34**

1. Esau is portrayed as an impulsive glutton led by his fleshly desires. v.29-30
  - v.30 in Hebrew lit. “...let me greedily swallow” – The idea is, ‘I want to gulp down that food.’
  - Esau demands “red stuff, red stuff” from Jacob.
2. Jacob is portrayed as one who strikes up a deal. v.31-32
  - He offers the food to Esau in exchange for his birthright.
  - The family birthright in the Bible and in the ANE was very important.
    - Preferential status in the family. (When the father died, he would receive headship of the family.)
    - Received a double portion of the inheritance. Ref. Deut. 21:17
3. Esau “despised” his birthright and exchanged it for a bowl of stew. v.33-34
  - Esau’s response to Jacob’s offer is careless and indifferent. What is a birthright to me?
  - Esau is an example of a short-sighted, impatient man led by his immediate wants and desires.
    - This is why the author of Hebrews describes Esau as a godless, immoral person. Heb 12:15-17
  - v.34: 5 verbs: Esau ate and drank and rose and went and despised.
  - Wrong translation: no longer “his” birthright—but “the” birthright. It now belonged to Jacob.
    - God’s declared Word was already happening.
  - Esau deliberately chose a path away from God’s promised Seed (Jesus) and God Himself. **See 26:34**

### **GOD’S PROMISES KEPT IN ABRAHAM’S SON ISAAC. GENESIS 26:1-33**

1. Like his father Abraham, Isaac experienced a famine. Gen. 26:1-2; Ref. 12:10f
  - Rather than go to Egypt, Isaac stayed within the boundaries of the Promised Land.
2. Like his father, the LORD promised Isaac land, offspring, and a Savior. v. 3-5; Ref. 12:2-3
  - Land, numerous offspring, blessing the families and nations of the world through their offspring.
3. Like his father, Isaac faithlessly lied about his wife—to protect himself!. v. 6-7; Ref. 12:13; 20:2
  - The LORD exposed the lie to Abimelech. v.8-11
4. Like his father, the LORD prospered Isaac materially—when he did not deserve it. v. 12-16. Ref. 12:16
5. Like his father, Isaac experienced struggles and difficulties while leading his family. v.17-22
  - And the LORD affirmed His promises to Isaac along the way. v.23-25
6. Like his father, the LORD gave Isaac victory over his adversaries. v.26-33
  - The LORD is faithful to His oath (Shibah).

### **APPLICATIONS**

1. The LORD’s faithfulness to complete His plan to rescue the world from evil and sin.
2. Each individual/generation must receive the LORD.
3. Consider the shortness of life—and the need to be saved!

(Next week’s text: Genesis 27:1-28:4)