

Esau's Tears

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Genesis 25:23-34

1. In Genesis 25 we can read the story of Jacob and Esau, where Esau sold his birthright to his brother Jacob.

A. Birthright:

- The right which naturally belonged to the firstborn son.
- The birthright of the firstborn consisted in the first place of a double portion of what his father had to leave. This probably means that he had a double share of such property as could be divided.
- The firstborn became head of the family and thus succeeded to the charge of the family property, becoming responsible for the maintenance of the younger sons, the widow or widows, and the unmarried daughters.
- He also, as head, succeeded to a considerable amount of authority over the other members. Further, he generally received the blessing, which placed him in close and favored covenant-relationship with almighty God.
- According to the accounts which have come down to us, all these gifts and privileges could be diverted from the firstborn son. This could happen with his own consent, as in the case of Esau, who sold his birthright to Jacob.

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2. In Genesis 27:1-4 Issac commands Esau to hunt for food so he can feed Issac and be blessed before his death. In verses 5-17, Rebekah instructs Jacob on what to do.

A. Then notice verse 38:

Genesis 27:38 And Esau said to his father, "Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me-- me also, O my father!" And Esau lifted up his voice and wept. Why? Because Jacob received his blessing.

3. Notice the Hebrew writer's account:

Hebrews 12:14-17

- A. Although Esau sought his lost blessings, there was nothing he could do to regain them.
 - B. The SAME is true with many things today, things we lose and cannot get back.
 - C. Therefore "Esau's Tears" in a sense, represents LOST THINGS, THINGS NOT REGAINABLE.
4. Let's look at the lesson that we can learn from Esau's tears.

Bible Examples of Esau's Tears

1. Adam and Eve.
 - A. Each one committed just ONE sin, but they lost the Garden of Eden forever and Adam had to work hard to earn a living by the sweat of his face.
2. Cain.
Genesis 4:9-13
3. Jephthah's foolish vow.
Judges 11:30-36
4. Samson.
 - A. He told Delilah the secret of his strength, being a Nazarite. He was taken to Gaza, his eyes were put out and would grind grain in Sorrow.
5. Prodigal Son.
 - A. Wasteful, lavish, reckless and extravagant living. His father forgave him, but he lost ALL of his inheritance.
6. Judas Iscariot.
Matthew 27:3-5

Esau's Tears of Today in the Physical Realm

- There are many things we can lose and never regain, no matter how diligently we may want them.
1. We may blow our money.
 2. Our Health.
 - A. Those that smoke for their pleasure and then battle lung cancer later in life.
- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.
3. Job Opportunities.
 4. Parents that miss out on their child's childhood.

Esau's Tears of Today in the Spiritual Realm

1. The CHURCH can get on the WRONG TRACK with policies which lead to ruination.

A. By doing one thing without Bible Authority, leads to doing many things without Bible Authority

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

B. By taking just anyone into the church without the proper teaching and repentance.

2 John 9

C. Lack of church discipline.

1 Corinthians 5:6 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that **a little leaven leavens the whole lump?**

- 1) Sometimes churches start policies that are unscriptural that literally blow their opportunity of ever being Strong.**
- 2) If they begin and continue with solid scriptural policies and leadership, they can have a good program and a STRONG CHURCH.**

Esau's Tears – Our Greatest Loss

- There are Spiritual things that we as INDIVIDUALS can lose and NEVER regain.

1. Our name, influence, and reputation.

Proverbs 22:1 A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold.

Matthew 5:13-16

- A. Some are hard working and honest, while others are lazy (No one looks up to a lazy guy)!

2. Making the wrong choice for a mate for life.

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

- A. Many friends have confided and tearfully stated how they wish they would have married a dedicated Bible Christian.

3. The opportunity to teach people.

- A. It may knock only once – but when it does, we must make sure we recognize it.

4. The opportunity to obey the gospel of Christ.

Luke 16:24-26

- A. A failure to obey will be our greatest loss of all. An eternity of tears, weeping, and gnashing of teeth!

Conclusion

1. **Life is so short, just a vapor as James says. Don't make decisions that will cause your tears to flow as Esau's did.**
2. **This is the time to make sure your life is right with God as the apostle Paul urged the Corinthian brethren.**

2 Corinthians 6:2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, **now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.**

Place

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Richie Thetford, February 1998 – Reworked December 2025 (Based on a sermon by David M. Bonner)