

Advent 2014, part 1 – “Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room” (Genesis 25)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare Him room

Abraham has died at age 175

Now his son Isaac is the **only surviving link** to the promises and covenant God made with Abraham

“So Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife Rebekah, because she was childless. And the LORD answered Isaac’s prayer and Rebekah his wife conceived.” Genesis 25:21

“But the children struggled together inside her, and she said, ‘Why is this happening to me?’ So she went and inquired of the LORD.” Genesis 25:22

Number One

“... Two nations are in your womb ...” Genesis 25:23a

“When the time came for her to give birth ... the first came out red, with hair all over him ... so they named him **Esau** [Hebrew – ‘hairy’].” Genesis 25:24-25

“And afterwards, his brother came out with his hand holding onto Esau’s heel, so they called him **Jacob** [Hebrew – ‘heel grabber’]. Genesis 25:26a

Number Two

“... And the older [**Esau**] will serve the younger [**Jacob**].” Genesis 25:23b

In the Ancient Near East, the **first-born son was always the pre-eminent child** in the family.

- He received the ‘**birthright**’
- He received his father’s spiritual “**blessing**”

Obviously, there was something else about these two boys that – in God’s mind – was more important than their birth order: **it was their heart!**

“Now when the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but Jacob was a quiet man, staying among the tents.” Genesis 25:27

“Once when Jacob was cooking, Esau came in from the field, famished. He said to Jacob, ‘Quick, let me have some of that red stew, for I am famished.’” Genesis 25:29

“Jacob replied, ‘First, sell me your birthright.’ And Esau said, ‘I am about to die! What good is the birthright to me?’” Genesis 25:31-32

In the Ancient Near East the “**birthright**” was a **spiritual thing** – it stood for God’s blessing and for which child it resided on.

In his heart – Esau had **no concern** for spiritual things or the blessing of God.

Jacob wanted God’s blessing and favor – and if Esau was **foolish enough to give it up** – Jacob was **anxious to take it!**

“So Esau swore an oath to Jacob, selling him his birthright.” Genesis 25:33b

“Then Esau ate and drank and went his way. And thus, Esau despised [Hebrew – “**treated with contempt**”] his birthright.” Genesis 25:34b

“... a godless person, who sold his birthright for a single meal.” Hebrews 12:16

“And Esau, seeing that marrying one of the daughters of the Canaanites displeased his father Isaac.”
Genesis 28:8

Esau went and married one *anyway*. [Genesis 28:9]

Why did God favor Jacob over Esau? Because Jacob had a **heart that cared about God/spiritual things/God’s blessing** – and **Esau didn’t!**

So What?

God tells Samuel that this new king is one of the sons of Jesse – but God doesn’t tell him ahead of time **which son!**

“When Samuel saw Eliab, the first born he thought, ‘Surely, **this** is God’s anointed.’” 1 Samuel 16:6

“But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not consider his appearance or his height for I have rejected him.’” 1 Samuel 16:7a

“For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the **HEART.**” 1 Samuel 16:7b

“So Jesse sent and brought him in . . . Then the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Rise and anoint him; he is the one!’” 1 Samuel 16:12

“After removing Saul, God made David king, and testified about him: ‘I have found David, the son of Jesse, to be a man after my own **HEART . . .**’” Acts 13:22

“For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show Himself strong . . . on behalf of those whose **HEART** is completely His.” 2 Chronicles 16:9

Can we honestly say that our heart is “**completely His**”?

[David] “As the deer pants for the water brook, so **my soul pants for You, O God.**” Psalm 42:1

[David] “O God, You are my God; **early** will I seek You. My soul **thirsts** for You, my flesh **longs** for You, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.” Psalm 63:1

How much time do we really devote to our **heart’s intimacy with God?**

Let every heart, prepare Him room”

But how often do we prepare room in our hearts for everything else – and give Jesus the leftovers?

The busier I am, the **MORE** desperately I need time for my heart to be with God’s heart.

What made them different is that they decided that, **above all else**, they were going to “**prepare room in their hearts for Jesus**” – and then they **disciplined their time** to make sure that it happened!