

**HOW VALUABLE IS OUR  
BIRTHRIGHT?**  
**Genesis 25:24-34**

**INTRODUCTION**

In Genesis 25:21, the Lord granted Isaac's plea for Rebecca to conceive. He revealed to Rebecca that two nations were in her womb – sons with two different natures. Normally, the eldest son would inherit the birthright – a special privilege in regards to inheritance of estate and leadership, even taking the place of spiritual priesthood within the family – *Deuteronomy 21:17*. Yet this elder brother will actually serve the younger. Worlds apart in what they will appreciate, the younger will be given higher honor by the Lord. Focusing our study on Esau's nature, we are challenged with the question – **How Valuable Is Our Birthright?**

**DIGGING DEEPER**

Review Genesis 25:19-23. Place yourself in this time with Isaac and Rebecca. Abraham is still living, so they have heard all about God's promise concerning children. Now read Genesis 25:24-34 several times, focusing on family dynamics as Esau and Jacob are born and grow into mature men. This study teaches that what we appreciate sets the direction in our lives. **How Valuable Is Our Birthright?**

*Pray for wisdom and understanding, and let's begin.*

I. Genesis 25:24-26. Birth of twins – Catching the Heel. God knows these boys before they leave Rebecca's womb. The firstborn was red, and extremely hairy – so they named him "Hairy" (Esau). The second boy grasped Esau's heel – so they named him Jacob. Jacob means heel holder or supplanter; the nature of a manipulator, deal maker or con artist. But God will turn Jacob into Israel – God Prevails! Redeemed ones are the Israel of God!! *Romans 9:6-13, Galatians 6:16 Selah*

II. Genesis 25:27-28. Growing into men – Family Dynamics. The boys are now men, and we observe their different natures, values, and what they are dedicated to. Esau is an outdoors man – not a bad thing at first glance. But it appears that he avoided being home with his family. *Hebrews 12:16-17* reveals he was a fornicator and secular, godless in character and not interested at all in spiritual development. Esau had no appreciation for his spiritual heritage. Certainly not perfect, Jacob was a mild man, dwelling in tents. He was more mature, complete, content – and valued his spiritual heritage. Their lives will prove that you reap what you sow, *1 Samuel 2:30, Galatians 6:7-8, Psalm 91:14-16*

III. Genesis 25:29-34. Jacob and Esau barter – The Deal. Details from this text show several things about these brothers. Jacob knows God's promise but is not willing to wait, and takes advantage of Esau's appetites and weakness. But Scripture places blame for this bad deal on Esau. Despising his birthright to the point of trading it for a bowl of stew, Esau's desires for immediate & temporal satisfaction will result in God's rejecting him. Let's not neglect our heritage like Esau!

With Genesis 25:24-34 as a backdrop, look at *Hebrews 2:1-3*. This is a sober warning about the sin of neglect in disregarding our great salvation. Neglect can be fatal! Give earnest heed! Casual disregard of God's invitation results in great loss. See *Matthew 22:1-10*. If one is short sighted and weak like Esau, there is danger of despising our birthright and drifting away. A contrast of Esau with Mary of Bethany (*Mark 14:3-9, John 12:2-8*) brings this teaching home. Mary worshipped Jesus fully, grateful for her salvation. Jesus received and recognized her devotion. Yet her sincere worship was opposed by the "spiritual people" around her – even questioning her passion and sacrifice, considering it a waste. Beloved, do not tone town your worship of Jesus – He is pleased! By cultivating and investing in our spiritual lives, we feed our spirit, and our spirit becomes stronger.

**CONSIDER .....** Several things to meditate on concerning the greatness of your salvation. The gospel is great in:

- Reach, expanse. Open to all, none excluded! *Matthew 28, John 6:37*
- Expense. What the Lord Jesus spent on our behalf. *Philippians 2:6-8*
- Power. The gospel frees us from sin, and washes us white and makes us new! *Romans 1:16, Romans 8:1-4*
- Wisdom. The gospel is wise to bring forgiveness and how we should follow. *1 Corinthians 1:18, 25*
- Love. Our gospel reveals His love for us and how we are to live for Him. *John 3:16, 1 John 4:9*

**How Valuable Is YOUR Birthright?**

**PRAY**

- Upcoming CCFL events – Dr. Mark Lisle sharing mornings and evening 2/26, marriage retreat 4/7-8
- School of Ministry – students and teachers this semester, Pastor Tony, Billy Pauly and his Monday Foundations class
- Various Bible studies – Foundations Class, Women's Bible Study, Home Fellowships
- Israel Trip with Pastors Scott & Bil Gallatin – the group traveling from several fellowships together
- Pastors and teachers that will be covering teaching times in the sanctuary while Pastor Scott is in Israel
- Praise the Lord for Irular project in India moving along. Pray for resources to complete the task.