

"How to Not Waste your Life"
Genesis 36
Berean Baptist Church
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INTRODUCTION

Genesis 36 contains the family history of Esau and the major lessons we learn from his life.

Genealogies are not always the most exciting passages, but every single one is inspired of God, and this life-story shows God's faithfulness, God's grace, and the high cost of worldliness.

Esau was a wealthy, powerful, talented, respected, loved, and blessed man. But he lived in the flesh. Sadly, more than any of his gifts, Esau's sin defined his life. The Scriptures show us how Esau loved the world and the things of the world, but they also show us how God faithfully blessed Esau despite his sin.

You must forsake worldliness, and grasp the faithful promises of God, or your life will be wasted!

Genesis 36:1-8 – God is Full of Grace and Mercy Even When We Don't Deserve It

Consider God's blessings in the life of Esau, and Esau's poor response to God...

Esau was the firstborn grandson of the Promise (Gen 25); he was born into a materially and spiritually wealthy family. God gave Esau great physical talents and useful skills (Gen 25:27), and Esau was the favorite of his father Isaac (Gen 25:28). Esau was greatly blessed by God. But, Esau was a deeply profane man who sold the blessing of God for a meal (Gen 25:32).

What was God's response? To Keep blessing Esau!

Gen 36:7 God honored Isaac's blessing of Esau, by making Esau extremely wealthy,

Gen 36:6 God softened Esau's heart multiple times so that the family could live in peace.

Gen 36:8 God even gave Esau a special inheritance in Seir near the Jordan river. This inheritance was to be protected by God for generations.

Esau threw away the great and eternal blessing of God, and this could never be undone. But Genesis 36 shows how kindly God blessed Esau for the rest of his life.

Let the mercy of God rule in your life, freeing you to be merciful and joyful.

Why does God bless those who reject him? Out of love and mercy, because mercy helps repentance (Rom 2:4), mercy becomes judgment if it is finally rejected.

Genesis 36:9-15 – God Keeps His Promises Even When We Don't Deserve Them

Earlier in Gen 17:6 God Promised Abraham "And I will make thee exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee." Now in Genesis 36:9-14 we read that Esau had at least five sons and twelve grandsons.

Gen 36:15 "duke" is a tribal chief, related to a term meaning "ruler of a thousand". Through Esau, as well as Jacob, Abraham was indeed father of nations and kings. Every one of these names is a witness to the faithfulness of God!

Earlier in Gen 27, and Hebrews 11:20 says that Esau's blessing was delivered by faith. This blessing was given to one who did not deserve it, simply because God made a promise, and God always keeps His promises.

This Genealogy shows how mighty Esau became and that God always keeps His promises.

Don't shy away from the blessings and promises of God because you feel unworthy, come to God in humble faith know that His faithfulness is greater than your unfaithfulness.

Genesis –36 Lasting Blessings Come To Those Who Die To Worldliness And Live By Faith

God was merciful and kind to Esau, and we can be happy for him in this, but his story is still a sad one. Esau was profane, he sold the most important things in life to feed his appetite.

Gen 36:2-3 Esau estranged his parents so that he could have many wives – Gen 26:34-35

Gen 36:6 Esau sold his holy birthright so that he could have an early supper and forever separated himself from the line of the Promise. It is good that Esau did not contend with his brother, but why did he have to go "from his face". Why could they not live together as a very mighty, extremely rich family? Was it too much for Esau to daily see the blessing he had sold to Jacob in Gen 25:32?

Gen 36:43 Esau's bitterness with his brother would be passed down to his children so that Israel and Edom would be enemies – Num 20:21

Esau's story is a sad one, but it is your story? Do you dishonor your parents or some other loved one, in hunting after your lusts? Do you put pride and money over family? Do you consider the blood of Christ that washes away sin to be a common thing – a quick and easy excuse to do what you want?

Die to the world, and to the lust that enslaves you, fix your life on the mercy and kindness of God, live in Christ.

CONCLUSION

Esau is very relevant to us today. This chapter shows us that Esau was enormously blessed by God throughout his life, but he frequently despised the things of God in favor of physical pleasure. Does this sound like Christians in America? We have all, at one time or another, acted like Esau. What are we to do when we profane our God and his promises for the expensive vanity of the world?

Remember that God keeps His promises even when we don't care about them, remember that God is merciful even when we don't deserve it. And by the mercy and faithfulness of God, you must turn back to life in Spirit living for God! Beware the trap of the world, if you live profane lives like Esau you may lose blessings that you can never get back.

You must forsake worldliness, and grasp the faithful promises of God, or your life will be wasted!