

Pastor Ron Case
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“God’s Preference”

Jacob (Part 1)

“... ‘Is not Esau Jacob’s brother?’ declares the LORD. ‘Yet I have loved Jacob but Esau I have hated...’ (Malachi 1:2b-3a)”

The Taker and the Waiter

Genesis 25:24-26 – (24) “When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were twins in her womb. (25) The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau (*rough, exertion, to do*). (26) Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding Esau’s heel, so his name was called Jacob (*to trip up, restraint*)...”

Fast, Foolish Choices

Genesis 25:27, 29-34 – (27) “When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents. (29) Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted. (30) And Esau said to Jacob, ‘Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!’ (Therefore his name was called Edom (*from adom i.e. Adam*)) (31) Jacob said, ‘Sell me your birthright now.’ (32) Esau said, ‘I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?’ (33) Jacob said, ‘Swear to me now.’ So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. (34) Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.”

Genesis 26:34-35 – (34) “When Esau was forty years old, he took Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite to be his wife, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite, (35) and they made life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah.”

The Narrow Path of Waiting

Genesis 28:1-7 – (1) “Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and directed him, ‘You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women. (2) Arise, go to Paddan-aram to the house of Bethuel your mother’s father, and take as your wife from there one of the daughters of Laban your mother’s brother. (3) God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples. (4) May he give the blessing of Abraham to you and to your offspring with you, that you may take possession of the land of your sojournings that God gave to Abraham!’ (5) Thus Isaac sent Jacob away. And he went to Paddan-aram, to Laban, the son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob’s and Esau’s mother. (7) and...Jacob...obeyed his father and his mother...”

Genesis 29:20 – “So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.”

Worth the Wait

“Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:30-31)

“Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!” (Psalm 27:14)

“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes...” (Luke 12:35-36)

“Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” (2 Peter 3:11-13)

God's Faithful Ones serve Him by Waiting

What am I waiting for in life?

Do I tend towards restraint or haste?

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

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