

**The Life of Esau:
Bad Blood and Bad Decisions
Genesis 25 – 33
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Intro: As parents we love our children. Every child is different, and we express our love differently to them, but we should not favor one over the other. The life of Esau is a life that has great difficulty. There is much that can be learned from him. The condition of our hearts and openness to God is often related to our relationship to family. Are you allowing family or earthly relationships to color your relationship to God?

Interog: Will you learn from the bitterness and anger of Esau and open your heart completely to God and His Goodness?

Read Scripture: Genesis 25:21-34

1. Born in Conflict 25:21-28

Two Nations, separated from you body (mutually antagonistic from birth – Haftorahs)

Jacob grabbed Esau's heel

Isaac loved Esau, Rebekah loved Jacob

Conflict continued beyond life – Edomites Gen36:43 Esau Fathered the Edomites

Numbers 20 Moses not allowed to cross Edom

Joshua set his borders "next to Edom"

Judges 11 Israel on the move – not allowed to cross through Edom

1 Sam 14 – King Saul fought against Edom

2 Samuel 8:14 – David subdued the Edomites and fulfilled the prophesy

1 King 11 – God raised up an adversary against Solomon it was an Edomite named Hadad

2. A Bad Decision and a Bad Situation 25:29-34, 27:1-45

Chose food over birthright trading the ultimate for the immediate

Hebrew 12: 14-16 "hated his birthright" "root of bitterness"

The story of betrayal by both Jacob and Rebekah

Victim mentality – comforted by thoughts of killing brother – bitterly wounded

Sought to appease his parents 28:9 right thing wrong way aligned with was pulled away

Story of Jacob and Laban – almost twenty years later

3. A Run at Reconciliation 33:1-16

Read 1, 4, 12-17

Esau no longer hated his brother or wanted to kill him, but wanted to walk together with him,

Jacob refused

Jacob camped away from Esau

Separated again and finally Deut 4-5

Conclusion: Love your children equally, even if differently respecting their individuality. Keep your focus on things above Col 3:2 "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth." Seek reconciliation and forgiveness even if it is not returned. God loves you equally, He has a blessing for you and you alone, be reconciled.