

Sermon Outlines

The Births of Jacob and Esau

The Birth and Naming of The Boys

- 1) First boy born (Gen. 25:25). He was red, and had lots of hair. One can imagine a chubby little baby with a mass of black hair.
 - i) He was called Esau because of his redness.
- 2) Second boy born (Gen. 25:26), what a difference.
 - i) He grabbed his brother's heel, he wanted to be first!
 - ii) Because of this attitude he was called Jacob. In wanting to be first he had no hesitation in getting what he wanted.

I suppose there is a little racism in all of us, judging people from how they look, how they dress etc. In 2009 a rather frumpy plumpish woman strode onto the stage in Britain's Got Talent. When asked what her goal was, she replied, "To be like a singer called Elaine Paige". As the camera scanned the judges and audience one could see the looks of disbelief, she did not look the part, whatever that meant. By the time she had sung one bar of music the entire audience was mesmerized. They had judged by how she looked.

- (a) Names are important to God:
 - ii) Observe the names He gave to things in Genesis 1.
 - iii) Note how Adam was given the responsibility to name animals (Gen. 2:19).
 - iv) Adam also named his wife "Eve" (Gen. 3:20).
 - v) Simon, calling him Cephas (Jn. 1:42)
 - vi) James and John, named them "The Sons of thunder" (Mk. 3:17)
 - vii) Abram was changed to Abraham (Gen. 17:5)
 - viii) Sari was changed to Sarah (Gen. 17:15)
- b) It is a matter for concern or rejoicing when the Lord renames individuals. He renamed:
 - i) Jechoniah (Jer. 22:24, 30) was changed to Coniah (Jer. 22:24) for this man sinned and the name of God was taken from him.
- c) God has given us new designations and names:
 - i) Saints (Rom. 1:7)
 - ii) Sons of God (Jn. 1:12)
 - iii) Joint heirs (Rom. 8:17)
 1. But the precious one is Revelation 2:17: "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches: To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth except he that receiveth it". What a blessing when God changes a person's spiritual name or designation.
- d) As previously seen, names can affect how a person behaves. They become self-fulfilling, as it was with Jacob.
- e) A negative comment to a child can have a detrimental effect spiritually, mentally, nutritionally psychologically. Therefore, how dignified ought we to walk in this world when we carry the names of God and the Lord.
 - i) Esau was named for how he looked at birth.
 - ii) Jacob was named for something he did at birth.
- f) Consider the boys:
 - i) Did their names convey their character?
 - ii) Were the names self-fulfilling?

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1. What encouragement or discouragement can be given to a name or nickname to a child that they turned out the way they did, because of their names?

Contriving to get the birthright

- a) What was the birthright?
 - i) Ultimately it was the greatest enrichment for it involved the Abrahamic blessing of inheriting the land. What a blessing, a God given unconditional inheritance to be his and his children forever.
- b) The Background (Gen. 25:29-30)
 - i) Esau was a man who did not consider the old maxim, "Look before you leap". In other words, consider the results of an activity before committing yourself. Esau did not do that.
 - ii) He was hungry and speaking to Jacob said, "Sell me this day thy birthright" (Gen. 25:31). That is, let's make an agreement, give me some pottage and you have the birthright.
 1. That blessing and inheritance meant nothing to Esau, he wanted self gratification and wanted it now. To Esau the birthright was as pie in the sky.
 2. From other Biblical references to Esau and his family it is evident Esau typifies the natural man, the unsaved. They:
 - (a) Set up a king (2 Chron. 21:8)
 - (b) Idolaters (2 Chron. 25:14)
 - (c) Under the judgment of God (Jer. 49:8)
 - (d) Oppressed the people of God working with the enemies of God (Obad. 1:21)
 - (e) End is dismay and cut off (Obad. 1:9).
 3. The nation of Israel was elected by God to represent him; to be His chosen people before they had done any good or any evil, because God purposed it and promised it to Abraham. It was said to her, "The older shall serve the younger" (Gen. 25:23).
 4. Esau never served Jacob, but the nation of Esau did serve the nation of Jacob. The Edomites were made to serve the Israelites. "He (King David) put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom put he garrisons, and all they of Edom became David's servants" (2 Sam. 8:14).

Concluding remarks

To ask God by His Spirit to give us:

- a) Good understanding in the precious truths of God.
- b) To be grasped by the truths and not treat them as historical facts etc., irrelevant to today.

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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