

Sermon Outlines

Jacob - Part 1 - Waiting on God

Readings

Genesis 16:1-3

Luke 18:3-7

Starting with a very practical lesson

- 1) A barren woman
- 2) Esau typifies the natural man, the unsaved.
 - 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) Profane, fornicators spiritually (Heb. 12:6)
 - f) End is dismay and cut off (Obad. 1:9)
- 3) In Romeo and Juliet Shakespeare wrote: "What's in a name? A rose by any other name would smell as sweet."
 - a) The individual's name defines what a person is, either in one's knowledge of the person or their character.
 - b) Nabal was such a person for his name means folly or fool (1 Sam. 25:25).
 - c) Saul lived a life of self pleasing, seeking to nullify God's plans for David. Musing on his attitude he says, "I have played the fool" (1 Sam. 26:21).
 - d) The individual who professes to be of this attitude says in his heart, "There is no God", is a fool (Psa. 14:1).
 1. The individual who rejects God's eternal salvation is foolish for God says, "O that they were wise . . . that they would consider their latter end" (Deut. 32:29).
 2. The wise individual responds to salvation, to the admonition of, "Prepare to meet thy God" (Amos 4:12).

The Divided Womb

- 1) The pre-born division (Gen. 25:24-25).
 - a) Before the babes were ever born they were in conflict.
 - b) This is a picture of a believer for they also have two natures within them which are totally opposed to each other.
 - i) "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would" (Gal. 5:17).
 - ii) It was a problem Paul found when he wrote, "For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I" (Rom. 7:15).
 - c) A very practical truth is seen in the fact that Rachel never had conflict within until she had life. We as saints of God never had a conflict with sin within before salvation. However, since salvation entered our lives there has been an awareness of an internal struggle.
- 2) Note that Rebekah never knew she had new life until there was a struggle within her.
 - a) Before we were saved there was no strength to do that which was pleasing to God for we were dead in sins (Eph. 2:5).
 - b) When saved God did not take away that old sinful nature, it cannot be modified, there is still within me:

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- i) A deceitful heart (Jer. 17:9)
- ii) A fleshly mind (Col. 2:18)
- iii) Carnal (Rom. 7:14)
- iv) Self willed (Rom. 3:11-12)
- c) When we want to please God then there is a struggle within, part of us wants to do the right, and part of us to do the wrong.
- d) Paul had this problem. Read Romans 7:15—23.

The Birth of The Twins

- 1) When the time for the birth came Esau was being born first. Then it happened, Jacob grabbed Esau's heel and was born first. Preeminence was the character of that little baby. Nothing was going to stop him, he was a strong-willed independent child, and his father loved him.
 - a) His brother Esau was a home buddy, he liked the finer things in life and his mother loved him.
 - b) Jacob became a hunter, he loved the thrill of the chase, the taste of meat, and getting covered with blood did not annoy him, but Jacob was perhaps a vegetarian, lentils etc.
 - c) Jacob was a man of the world, the scriptures call them "earth dwellers". They live for the moment, thinking nothing of eternity or spiritual things.
 - d) Esau was named because of how he looked at birth.
 - e) Jacob was named for something he did at birth.
- 2) Consider the boys:
 - a) Did their names convey their character?
 - b) Were their names self fulfilling?
 - c) What encouragement or discouragement can be given by nicknames?
 - d) The boys lived their lives by their names.

God's response

- 1) Verse 23
 - a) And the LORD said to her: "Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger (Gen. 25:23).
 - b) This verse is the key to understanding Romans 9. These aren't two children in her womb, but two nations. Not two people, but two peoples.
 - i) God's not saying that Jacob would be stronger because Esau was the outdoorsman, the burly hunter, the man's man. Jacob was just a mama's boy.
 - ii) God is saying that the nation of Jacob would be stronger than the people of Esau. Now, with that in mind, let's turn to the book of Romans.
 - iii) The word children should be in italics in your bible because it's not in the original Greek. It says, "for having not been born yet."
 - iv) The translators inserted "children, or boys" – to complete the thought, but they should have checked with Genesis 25 first. They should have used the word nations – because that's what God said to Rebekah. For the nations not having been born yet, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls)...
 - v) 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.
 - vi) The Lord said to Rebekah, "The elder shall serve the younger" (Gen. 25:23).

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vii) Esau never served Jacob, But the nation of Esau did serve the nation of Jacob. REF The Edomites were made to serve the Israelites. 2 Samuel 8:14, "He (King David) put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom he put garrisons, and all they of Edom became David's servants."

viii) We must bow to the sovereignty of God.

**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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