

WHEN GOD SETS HIS HEART ON YOU

Part # 4

6-5-22

“What is Man, that thou (God) shouldst MAGNIFY HIM? And that thou shouldst SET THINE HEART UPON HIM? And that thou shouldst VISIT HIM EVERY MORNING, and TRY HIM EVERY MOMENT (JOB 7:7, 18)?

“Draw nigh unto God, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts ye double minded” (JAMES 4:8).

HEBREWS 12: 1 – Therefore, since we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and run with perseverance; the race that is set before us,”

Here is another “Example” of a person, who God “HAS SET HIS HEART ON” because he has set his heart on the promises and commandments of God.

HEBREWS 11: 20 - (Read) - (K.J.B.)

ISAAC - “REVELATION FAITH” - ISAAC REALIZED THAT GOD’S WILL FOR OUR LIVES WILL NOT FAIL - IF WE TRULY VALUE GOD’S INHERITANCE FOR US - GENESIS 25: 20 - 35: 29.

GENESIS 25: 20 - 26 - (Read) - (K.J.B.)

GENESIS chapter 25 - Isaac is 40 years old, when he marries Rebekah (GENESIS 25: 20) and she could not also, bear children like Abraham’s wife Sarah. Isaac “Intreated the Lord”; for his wife, to have children (GENESIS 25: 21). Rebekah was barren for about 19 years, before she became pregnant with twins, again two miracle children. Before she gave birth to the twins; the twins struggled against each other, inside of Rebekah and she wonders why, this struggle is going on between the two unborn twins (GENESIS 25: 22).

Rebekah, inquires of the Lord, why the twins struggle against each other and the Lord gives her a prophetic word, concerning the two boys. These two boys; represented “Two Nations”: Esau and (Edom and the Edomites) and Jacob (Israel and the Jewish people) and are of “Two manner of people”. Esau will not be faithful to God and will follow after false Gods and Jacob, will be faithful to God. “AND THE ELDER (ESAU) SHALL SERVE THE YOUNGER (JACOB) (GENESIS 25: 23)”. That was God’s Plan.

GENESIS 25: 27 - 34 - (Read) - (K.J.B.)

As the firstborn, Esau was entitled to a double portion of his father’s possessions – that is, twice as much as any other son might inherit. He also became the tribal or family head. This was known as the “Birthright”. In Esau’s case, it would also include being an ancestor of the Messiah. One day Esau was

returning from a hunting trip and he saw his brother Jacob, cooking some “Red Stew”. Esau asked for some stew and Jacob offered up some stew, in exchange for Esau’s “Birthright”; Esau foolishly agreed. The prophecy, of verse 23, where “The elder son will serve the Younger son”, is partially fulfilled in verses 29-34. God does not condone Jacob’s wheeling and dealing, but one thing is apparent – Jacob VALUED THE BIRTHRIGHT AND A PLACE IN THE GODLY LINE, WHILE ESAU PREFERRED THE GRATIFICATION OF HIS PHYSICAL APPETITE, TO SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS.

Verse 34 – “Then Jacob gave Esau bread and portage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and ROSE UP, AND WENT HIS WAY (As if he had made the right decision): THUS ESAU DESPISED HIS BIRTHRIGHT”.

Later, in GENESIS chapter 26, Esau continues to show his lack of concern for the covenant promises by marrying two local (Hittites) girls, who were not related to the people of Abraham (GENESIS 26:34, 35; 36:1, 2). The mixed marriages caused grief to Esau’s parents, particularly to his mother.

HEBREWS 12: 12 - 17 - (Read) - (K.J.B.)

Verses 12, 13 - Believers should not cave in, under the adverse circumstances of life; their lapse of faith, can certainly have unfavorable results for that Christian and those around them. Drooping “Hands”, should be reinvigorated, to serve the living Christ. “Feeble knees” should be strengthened for persevering prayer. Faltering “Feet”, should be guided in “Straight Paths” of Christian discipleship, as they apply their lives to the Word of God.

Verse 14 - “FOLLOW PEACE WITH ALL MEN” - Christians, should strive for as much as possible, to have peaceable relations, “With all people”. As a culture becomes increasingly “Dark spiritually” and persecution of Christians, becomes more prevalent; words said, actions taken and responses made; to those that we come in contact with, should be “Measured” by the Word of God and not by hurt feelings or “Small loses”. Our testimony of God’s grace and mercy in our lives, is the most “Valuable possession”, that we have, in this life. Don’t trade, YOUR TESTIMONY OF GOD’S GRACE AND MERCY, IN YOUR LIFE – DON’T TRADE THE RICHES WE HAVE IN CHRIST; for some “Small thing in life”. LIKE ESAU. Be willing to suffer loss; for CHRIST JESUS and the TESTIMONY OF GOD’S GRACE IN YOUR LIFE because we will all stand before God and have to give an account of our lives, to God.

Verse 14 - “AND HOLINESS, WITHOUT WHICH NO MAN SHALL SEE THE LORD:” – “Holiness” in believers, is used in three different ways, in God’s Word.

(1). “Positional Holiness” - UP-RIGHT STANDING WITH GOD; BEGINS when we confess Christ Jesus as our Savior and Lord of our lives (EPHESIANS 2: 8, 9) and when we obey the commandment to be baptized (ACTS 2:38). CHRIST JESUS BECOMES OUR HOLINESS BEFORE GOD.

2 CORINTHIANS 5: 21: 21 - For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be MADE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM”.

2 CORINTHIANS 6: 1, 2 -“We then, as workers together with Him, beseech you also THAT YOU RECEIVE NOT THE GRACE OF GOD IN VAIN”. “(For He saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and IN THE DAY

OF SALVATION HAVE I succoured (Bring aid and help to) thee: behold, now is the ACCEPTED TIME; BEHOLD, NOW IS THE DAY OF SALVATION”).

(2). “Practical Holiness” - This is what we should doing day by day. We should separate ourselves from every form of evil. This holiness should be progressive, that is, we should be growing more and more like the Lord Jesus all the time (1 THESSALONIANS 4: 1- 7).

(3). “Perfect Holiness” - This takes place when the believer actually receives everlasting life. Then the believer is forever free from sin. The believer’s old nature is removed, and their state, perfectly corresponds to their standing.

So, which of the three forms of “Holiness”, are we to “Pursue”? Obviously it is “Practical Holiness”; the only one that we are able to “Pursue”. It is the only one, of the three that the believer can “Follow”. As the believer pursues practical holiness, in their lives, it can only come as the Holy Spirit “Enlightens” the Word of God, in our lives and the believer follows the commandments laid out in God’s Word and we become more and more like Christ Jesus.

Verses 15 - 17 – “LOOKING DILIGENTLY LEST ANY MAN FAIL THE GRACE OF GOD;” – “Looking diligently” is the Strong’s Greek word # 1983, and is found 2 times in the N.T. K.J.B, here and 2 PETER 5: 2. This word means “To beware, to look upon, inspect, look after” (HEBREWS 12: 15) and “Of the care of the church which rested upon the elders” (2 PETER 5: 2). “Lest any man (Christians) fail the grace of God”. We are as Christians, to “Look diligently lest” “we” (HEBREWS 12: 1 – Who the great cloud of witnesses, witness to – Christians) “Fail the Grace of God” and become “A PROFANE (PERSON) AS ESAU”. The word “PROFANE”, in the Bible means “TO UNDERVALUE THE WORD OF GOD AND TO BE CALLED, TO PUT A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE HOLY AND UNHOLY THINGS AND WHEN WE FAIL TO DO SO, WE FAIL TO TEACH OTHERS AND BE A EXAMPLE TO OTHERS” (LEVITICUS 10:10, 11).

Christians are to “Look Diligently”, “Lest we fail the Grace of God and become a “PROFANE” person such as “ESAU”. Today, we view a “Profane” person as someone who is “A foul mouthed, disrespectful and irreverent individual” but that was probably not what Esau was, as a person. The Scriptures paint Esau, to be a hard working and a good provider for his family. But a “PROFANE” person in the Bible, simply means, “Someone who “UNDERVALUES THE PROMISE AND COMMANDMENTS OF GOD; FOR THEIR LIVES.

Approximately thirty seven years have passed, since the events in Genesis, chapter 26. Isaac is now 137 years old, his eye sight has failed, and he thinks he is about to die, perhaps because his Ishmael had died at that age (GENESIS 25: 17). But he will live another 43 more years.

HEBREWS 11: 20 - “By faith Isaac blessed Jacob...” - Isaac was really in the “Flesh”, not in Faith, when he first intended to bless Esau, instead of Jacob. He wanted to bless Esau with the birthright, for carnal reasons. He wanted to bless Esau, as he was a more “Manly” man, and liked the wild game he brought home. Instead he should have chosen Jacob, whom God chose.

“By faith Isaac blessed...” - Yet Isaac came to the PLACE OF FAITH, when he discovered that he had actually blessed Jacob instead of Esau. GENESIS 27: 33 says, “Isaac trembled exceedingly”. When Isaac trembled exceedingly, he was troubled because he knew that he tried to “Box God in” and to defeat God’s plan, and that God beat him. He realized that he would always be defeated by God, when he tried to RESIST GOD’S WILL, even when he didn’t like it. And he came to learn that despite his arrogant attempts against the will of God, God’s will, was glorious and victorious.

“BY faith...” - The faith in Isaac’s blessing came in, after Isaac attempt to thwart the will of God was destroyed and when he said to Jacob, “And indeed he shall be blessed” (GENESIS 27: 33). He knew that his puny attempt to “Box God in”; was defeated. Yes, Esau was the “First Born” and should have received the blessing of his Birthright and yes, he “Looked and he Acted like the new leader and Patriarch, of the family (Much like, later between Saul and David and who would become king) God KNEW, from before the twins were born; that Esau would “Fail the Grace of God and that Jacob would not. Isaac responded in faith and said, “O.K. God you win. Let Jacob be blessed with the birthright, and let Esau be blessed after him, in his own way (In his own strength).”

In spite of the fact that the brothers made peace, Esau’s descendents, the “Edomites” (Also called the Idumeans) never got along with Jacob’s descendants, the Israelites. Edom regularly opposed and fought against Israel. A big part of the problem was, that the “Edomites” were pagans and the Israelites followed God. The prophet Jeremiah and the prophet Obediah, said that God would “Bring disaster on Esau (JEREMIAH 49: 8) and that the “Edomites” would be eventually destroyed (OBEDIAH 1: 18) (East of Jerusalem and into the western part of the modern country today, Jordan), in “The Day of the Lord” (OBEDIAH 1: 15), in the Last Days.