

**A LESSON ON PRIORITIES FROM  
THE LIFE OF ESAU**  
(Gen. 25:27-34)

**INTRO:**

As we view this account before us I want us to see a lesson on priorities... but before we consider what Esau was guilty of I want you to think about a couple of things.

First of all think about this-everyone of us is going to fill up his life with one thing or another. For some of us it may be a life filled with pleasures and playing around. For others of us it may be pursuing material gains and possessions. But something will fill up your life and mine.

Now I want you to think about another factor as well - we can all become so involved in things we can get our priorities out of place and put other things before the Lord.

The one thing that no doubt condemns most people today is that other things have simply filled up their lives and crowded out the things of the Lord. As a result of this -when many people ought to be in the Lord's house they are in other places. When many ought to be serving God they are serving themselves.

Now notice that Esau typifies the earthly or carnal individual who puts physical desires and their satisfaction above spiritual verities. Esau's problem was a problem of priorities. And as a result he never amounted to anything spiritually speaking.

Notice the same problem which Esau had is the very same problem that many have today - they have their priorities in the wrong place and because of it they will never amount to anything spiritually speaking unless they address this problem and do something about it.

The question that confronts you and me is this:

"Do we have our priorities in the right order?"

Notice...

## **I. THE SITUATION WHICH ESAU GOT HIMSELF INTO**

Esau got himself in an awful situation where he was bound to make a bad trade.

Abraham's nephew did the very same thing - he began to make choices which left God out and he soon traded ...This is what a lot of folks do - they suppose they can do their own thing and live without God. Pretty soon they are so involved in the things of this world that they are trading truth for error - self respect for self indulgence ...

Do you have ...? It's not that people today are so evil, it's just that they have allowed other things crowd out God and they are bound to make some bad trades along the way.

## **II. THE SALE WHICH ESAU TRANSACTED**

Esau put physical desires and their satisfaction above spiritual things in his life. This was no doubt the mistake that Samson made in his life when he joined himself with harlots of the uncircumcised Philistines...

This is apparently what Demas did. He forsook the apostle Paul... "Demas hath forsaken me having loved this present world..."

Do you have your priorities ...?  
Some have put their own desires  
above what God desires. Instead  
of being in church using their  
gifts and talents, they are  
living for the things of this  
world.

### **III. THE SHAME OF WHAT ESAU COULDN'T SEE**

Esau couldn't see that the spiritual blessings  
of the birthright were far more valuable than  
satisfying his fleshly desires.

The Bible gives us a number of illustrations of  
people who couldn't see the value of spiritual  
things. Felix for example couldn't see the  
value of choosing Christ over a life of  
intemperance. Ananias and Sapphira couldn't  
see the value of being honest over  
greediness. The rich young ruler couldn't  
see the value of possessing Christ over the  
possessions of this world. The priests  
mentioned in John 12 couldn't see the value  
of identifying with Christ over the praises of  
their peers.

So many people today are blinded just  
like Esau - all they can see is having a  
good time and satisfying their own  
physical and fleshly desires. All some  
can see is working all the time and  
making more and more money and possessing  
more and more material things. All some  
can see is the attractions of the world  
and the good life it purports to give.  
Recently I heard of a woman who left her  
husband and two children for another man. Her  
contention was that she wanted a life for  
herself. When questioned by her pastor about  
her sinful decision she responded by saying,  
"what makes me happy will make my children  
happy." How blind she was and how blinding are  
the sinful things of this world.

Do you have your priorities...? It's a shame to see people who are just like Esau - they will never amount to anything spiritually because they are always putting self and worldly things before a life of self-denial and faithfulness to the Lord.

## **CONCLUSION**

Perhaps as you think about these things in the life of Esau you realize the problem of priorities is a problem you have.

Maybe you've gotten yourself into a precarious situation and you are so involved in so many things that there is little or no time for the things of God. Maybe you've been trading the things of God for the things of this world and selling spiritual things for worldly and worthless things. It is a shame what Esau couldn't see - and it's a shame what so many people today cannot see. The apostle Paul said, "while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen, for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." (II Cor. 4:18). Remember Esau didn't amount to anything spiritually because of the priorities he set and the choice he made. If you have a problem of putting other things before the things of the Lord then you need to address it and do something about it or you'll be just like Esau - you'll never never amount to anything for God.

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