

## *Esau -- The Power of Obsession*

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**Introduction:** What is the value of character?

- A. The root idea of character is that of moral strength and courage. **(Rom 5:3-5)**
  - 1. Character here means: "approved, tried character; a proof, a specimen of tried worth."
  - 2. Men of faith develop this strength to stand when the strong desires within us beckon to another path. **(Heb 11:24-25)**
- B. Many Christians however are overconfident and blind as to their true character.
  - 1. Paul knew the possibility of this overconfidence. **(2 Cor 13:5; 1 Cor 10:12)**
  - 2. The reason men stand is because of preparation in the word of God. **(Psa 119:11)**
  - 3. It is sad to see how quickly some Christians fall and their "reasons" for this action. Many have viewed themselves as strong! Esau is such a Bible character.

### ***I. The Advantages of Esau***

- A. **He had Godly parents**, Isaac and Rebekah. **(Gen 26:21)**
  - 1. Isaac was the beloved son of Abraham!
  - 2. God identified Himself to Moses as being the God of Isaac! **(Acts 7:31-32)**
  - 3. Unfortunately both Isaac and Rebekah became divided and showed favoritism. **(Gen 25:28)**
    - a. This division had terrible consequences. Parents need unity to give the greatest strength of character to a child! (Ex. Advice in marriage class)
    - b. This later led to deceit, bitterness and separation.
- B. **He was the firstborn.**
  - 1. In other words he had the "birthright".
    - a. This meant a double share of the inheritance and first place among the sons.
    - b. Because he was a direct descendant of Abraham a major spiritual blessing was involved. He knew of the exalted place he occupied. **(Gen 12:1-3)**
  - 2. God had blessed Esau greatly.
    - a. God's prophecy of Isaac and Esau was of their descendants. **(Rom 9:11-13; Gen 25:23)**
    - b. No man can blame God for their failures! **(Jas 1:13)**

### ***II The Obsession of Esau***

- A. Esau made a choice based upon a temporary obsession. **(Gen 25:29-34)**
  - 1. There are two ways of thinking and making decisions. **(Rom 8:5-6)**
  - 2. Because of Esau's carnal mind he "despised" that which was truly valuable.
  - 3. When we treat God's things lightly we despise it. **(1 Cor 11:22)**
- B. Characteristics of obsession.
  - 1. **Obsession:** "1. Compulsive preoccupation with a fixed idea or an unwanted feeling or emotion, often accompanied by symptoms of anxiety. 2. A compulsive, often unreasonable idea or emotion."
  - 2. **Obsession has its own reality.** **(Gen 25:32)**
    - a. Was Esau about to die? NO!
    - b. The strong desire for something causes one to believe a lie.
    - c. Reason has little value, the goal is to obtain the thing desired not to see and

- stand upon the truth. (Ex. The desire for a mate.)
- d. This is the driving force behind most false teachers. God described Balaam as "mad". **(2 Peter 2:15-16; Jude 11)**
- e. If you want something bad enough, God will give it to you! **(2 Thess 2:11-12)**
- f. How many Christians have I seen give up heaven for an obsession!
- 3. **Obsession has no concept of waiting. (Gen 25:34)**
  - a. Why wait for something? Wisdom knows why. **(Isa 40:31; Hosea 12:6)**
  - b. What are the dangers of rushing? You may leave God out!
- 4. **Obsession will pay any price.**
  - a. Salesmen love to create obsession in their customers. Why?
  - b. When reason departs men close their eyes. What will they think later when they look back?
- 5. **Obsession is powerful.**
  - a. The power is found in our lusts. **(1 Pt 2:11; 1 Tim 6:9)**
  - b. Too many of our young think they will not be affected. **(2 Tim 2:22; Rom 1:24)**
  - c. All false teaching has this "power" as its drawing power. **(Eph 4:22; Jude 16)**
  - d. If you deny this point ask an alcoholic or drug addict.
- 6. **Obsession cannot see the future and its consequences. (Heb 12:16-17)**
  - a. Satan wants you to be deceived. **(Eph 4:22)**
  - b. The great value of the gospel is that it is true. **(Psa 1:3-5)**
  - c. While **Esau's obsession was temporary**, could Esau change the past?
  - d. Sadly Esau continued in bad decisions because he was a "profane" person. **(Gen 27:41)**

### ***III. Obsessions of Our Generation***

- A. **The Sexual Desire (Heb 13:4; 1 Cor 6:18)**
- B. **The Need for a Mate (Mark 6:17)**
- C. **The desire for Material Things. (1 Tim 6:9-10)**
- D. **The desire for Revenge. (Rom 12:19-21; Eph 4:31-32; Heb 12:15)**
- E. **The Desire for Alcohol and Drugs. (Prov 23:32-35)**
- F. **The Desire for Attention.**

### ***IV. How to Overcome Obsession***

- A. **Build a Character that pleases God. (Heb 11:17)**
  - 1. Why does a person attend all the services, principle or ease?
  - 2. When obsession comes, you will find out what a person is made of.
- B. **Keep Thinking. (1 Thess 5:21-22)**
- C. **Have friends who will tell you what you need, not what you want! (2 Tim 4:24)**
- D. **Maintain proper worship. (Psa 73:12-17)**
- E. **Go to Spiritual men for advice. (John 3:19-21)**
  - 1. A spiritual person wants to be tested. What if Esau had first talked with Isaac?
  - 2. There is a difference in the advice of the worldly and the spiritual.

**Conclusion:** Who do you want in control of your life, God or Satan?

- A. Esau found out the bitterness Satan brings into one's life. **(Gen 27:38)**
- B. Prepare your heart today to meet the time of obsession. **(1 Cor 10:13)**