**Sunday Morning Prayer September 20, 2020**

# *<u>Esau's Hidden Blessing</u>*

Devotions by Chris Hendrix

Genesis 27 contains a story many of us are familiar with. It's where Jacob steals Esau's blessing. I remember hearing this story as a child and wondering why Isaac couldn't give Esau a blessing too. To tell the truth, I still don't understand why he couldn't do something. In verse 38, Esau pleaded, "But do you have only one blessing? Oh my father, bless me too!" Isaac began to tell him what all he had given to his brother. I'm sure each blessing was a dagger to the heart since they were meant for him.

Isaac then spoke the opposite of the blessing of Jacob to Esau. He told him that he would live far away from the riches of the earth and away from Heaven's dew. He told him he would live by the sword and would serve his brother. The way he ended it was curious to me though. He said, "However it shall come to pass when you break loose [from your anger and hatred], That you will tear his yoke off your neck [and you will be free of him]" (AMP) To me, that was a blessing hidden in there. He would only serve his brother until he decided not to. I think that his anger was so blinding that he missed it though.

Instead of breaking free, he allowed anger to rule his life and his decisions. He started doing the opposite of what he had been taught. In fact, he went out and married a woman from Canaan because he knew his father didn't like them. When we are hurt by someone, all we want to do is hurt them back. We say things and do things that we think will stick it to them the way they stuck it to us. Esau was no exception. He decided to let anger rule his decision making and ultimately his way of life. When we act like that, we are letting the other person rule us. We quit making decisions based on our good and instead make them on what we think will do the most harm to another.

We quit trying to find ways to help ourselves advance and only find ways to make the other person retreat. We put ourselves in a prison, lock the doors and hand the keys to the person that hurt us.

I understand that even less than why Isaac couldn't bless Esau as well. I've been angry and hurt enough to want to act that way, but not to the point where it controlled every decision for a long period of time. I didn't want to give anyone that kind of power over me.

If you're in that position now, the blessing given to Esau is a blessing for you. "When you break loose [from your anger and hatred], That you will tear his yoke off your neck [and you will be free of him]." The choice is yours to let it go. Quit wondering if they ever regret doing that to you. Quit wishing their life was horrible. Stop getting excited when you hear about bad things that happen to them. Those thoughts keep you locked in prison. Decide to let it go. I know that easier said than done. I've had to do it myself. The only way you break free from that life is to let go. When you do, the yoke will fall off, your life will begin to have a greater purpose and will flourish again.

**TODAY'S PRAYER:** Dear God, You are the Creator and Ruler of all. You are the Most High God, El Elyon, the God who rules Heaven and Earth. I lift You up and praise You for who You are, for Your great works and for Your greater love. I thank You for Jesus, my Lord, my savior and my Great Intercessor, who supports me and lifts me and points me to You. You have shown me so much mercy and love. I long for a closer relationship with You and I need Your power to help me through this day. Please help me today and every day to come to You and to accept Your direction and Your blessings. May I be Your faithful servant and Your loving child all the days of my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen. (Prayer from Prime Time with God Devotional)

**We lift up in prayer**
Healing for our World for Injustice
Healing for COVID-19
Clear Vision In 2020
Bright Star Family
Bright Star Leadership
Bright Star Ministry Opportunities
Sick & Shut-In, Family and Friends

Our City, State and Nations
Our Leaders and those in Authority