SIBLING RIVALRY

Sermon Notes

Text: Genesis 25:19-34

Intro:

Here's the pattern of humanity...We lose trust in God's wisdom, and start to do what's right in our own eyes.

We reach and **grasp** and try to take blessing for ourselves, instead of trusting in God to provide what we need.

When we grasp, we tend to spread curses...when we trust, we tend to spread blessings.

Genesis 3:15
"I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

God foretells future conflict between the offspring of the serpent and the offspring of the humans, specifically Eve.

There will be a family line that comes from the deceiving serpent, and a family line that comes from Eve.

They will fight and wrestle and contend.

The end result will be that the offspring of the woman will be harmed by the serpent – the serpent will strike his heel...But ultimately, the serpent's head will be crushed….

So keep this image in mind...striking at a heel.

1.God Has An Inheritance For Us

Galatians 3:23 … "in Christ you are all sons of God."

2. All Sin Is An Act of Contempt For Our Birthright

Esau showed contempt and sold his birthright for a bowl of soup.

Conclusion:
We have an older brother Jesus who makes our inheritance secure, even if we have shown contempt for it through our sin.

What's left for us? Faith!

Connect Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. Pastor Dave told a story about wrestling with his dad and eventually coming to a point where he was stronger than him as an adult. Do you remember a time when you felt like you had surpassed your parent(s) in some way? Height? Strength? Ability or knowledge?

2. What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

Study & Discussion:

1. Genesis tells us about two brothers, Jacob and Esau, with the younger Jacob competing for the older Esau's position in the family. How does jealous competition within a family affect a household? How can parents work toward healthy relationships between siblings?

2. Jacob is depicted as a snake-like deceiver in this story. Is that surprising to you? How does his grasping and deceiving display the nature of sin and participate in the prophecy of Genesis 3:15 and surrounding verses.

3. Read Galatians 3:23 and 1 Peter 1:3-4. What does this say about our "birthright" as followers of Jesus? Where can we see ourselves within the story of Jacob and Esau?

4. Esau traded his birthright for a bowl of stew - he "showed contempt" for his birthright. How does this relate to our own relationship with sin?

5. Read Hebrews 2:10-18. How does Jesus help us as our "older brother"?

Practice this week:

1. Make a list of areas where you are tempted to take a "shortcut" to happiness, contentment, joy, security, etc. Reflect on the circumstances when this temptation is likely to occur. How has it played out in the past? What promises has the temptation promised to deliver? What actually was the outcome?

Then make an inverse list of those needs and the God-given pathways toward those things - security, joy, happiness, etc. How have you experienced blessing in those circumstances before? How has it felt when you have resisted the temptation and chosen God's way?