

**Intro:** My family was not a “normal family!” “NOT leave it to Beaver!” A little bit different than the ordinary  
Last year I was Walking downtown w/older brother, introduced me to a friend:  
I have known you 25 years, didn’t know you had another brother!  
We don’t know what happened to him, we didn’t raise him that way!”

Today we look at the story of Isaac’s family...Jacob and Esau...and they are the DEFINITION of a Dysfunctional Family!  
*How to Create A Dysfunctional Family!*  
Genesis 25:19-34 Pg 18

### **1 Play Favorites With Your Children Gen 25:28**

- *Isaac loved Esau While Rebekah loved Jacob Doesn’t say why*  
Parents when you do this you create a formula for disaster!  
Let one of them know that they are your favorite...that will go a long way to creating chaos in your family
- *Value one area of giftedness over another and let you children know about it!*  
Love one more, treat one differently because they love sports, or music, or pick YOUR favorite interest!  
You love sports dad, and have a child that loves music...let him know it....guaranteed to destroy self esteem
- *Keep important secrets from the other parent...and other child...Don’t let them know whats going on*  
Play the “*Don’t tell mom, or Don’t tell Dad*” card.  
Before you know it you will have such a mess on your hands that you will never be able to get it straight!

**Illus:** Parents: Keep this in mind: Your call is to love and teach and train your children...And to do so TOGETHER!  
The reality is, soon...before you know it, they will be gone...and you will be together  
Andy Stanley: Goal is to raise his children such that he ends up with healthy adult relationships!

### **2. Don’t Instill True Godly Values:**

- *Have just enough spirituality to inoculate them to the real thing!*  
Illus: (Inoculation) Talk about it, attend occasionally, but for goodness sake, don’t live a committed spiritual life, and expect them to do the same as you raise them.

Be sold out to: (Just like Esau was “sold out” to hunting and Jacob to hanging out in the tents, following their own hearts  
You be sold out to something: Be more committed and excited about something else other than God.

<Job                      <Vacations              <Recreation  
<Sports                      <Career                      <Boat

But don’t be sold out to God and spiritual things. Let every one of those other activities trump serving and honoring God, all the while telling them how important God is in your life. That’s almost guaranteed to give them just enough spiritually to keep them from EVER catching the real thing!

- **IMHO** Neither one of these two boys were very well trained Spiritually! (I know, they make their own choices)  
>**Esau:** Focused on Physical, what HE wanted, what HE needed, what HE enjoyed, no consideration for spiritual  
He comes into the house (tent) one day...I’m starving...So impatient that he couldn’t wait...I want it NOW!  
Willing to sell his birthright (REALLY BIG DEAL) for a bowl of stew!  
Heb 12:16 *See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son.*  
Illus: “The worst price for a meal that was ever paid, second only to what Adam and Eve paid for the apple!”

>**Jacob:** Focused on getting what He wanted; Willing to Defraud his brother to accomplish his goals  
Selfish; Liar; Conniving; Trickster (Brother, Father, Father in Law)  
Promised from birth that he would lead...totally unwilling to wait for God to act, took control, awful way

- Both were taught to do what many of us teach our kids: “Make Their Own Choices and “Follow Their Own Hearts!”  
Talk to parents all the time and they tell me, Oh, I don’t want to make my kids come to church...Follow heart, choice  
Illus: One of my favorites: Because it seems so appealing on the surface  
Saw an Ad years ago that pointed out the lack of wisdom of this approach  
If we told our children that about brushing their teeth, by the time they were wise enough to choose  
The damage would be irreversible! Cavities, Gum Disease.  
We know better with brushing our teeth, going to school, going to Dr, everything except faith!!!

Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?  
Listen, we don’t need to teach our kids to follow THEIR HEARTS, or OUR hearts...Teach them to follow GOD’S

**Illus:** Awana: Ps 119:11 “*I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*”  
SS Program at 9:15 and 11  
Pick one...and teach your children to be committed to it!

**Illus:** For the LIFE of me I don’t understand a Christian parent that will prioritize sports training over the spiritual training of their children. Can’t miss a practice, or a game, or a party...miss studying God’s word.  
Every time you make that choice you teach them God is simply a nice add on to life...Not central, Core,

OK, Enough with the negative...Let's look at what will truly help us to create a healthy Family

#### 4 Things We can Do That We Find Built Into The Concept of The "Birthright" That Esau Sold

##### Birthright as Best We Can Tell Had Four Essential Elements.

This is what Esau sold for a bowl of soup...probably beans with a little bit of meat!

If we aren't careful, WE will do EXACTLY the same thing...Sell our Spiritual Birthright at a cheap price!

He Sold:

- *The Honor of Being the temporal Head of the Family: (Recognized Civil family leader)*  
Mom and Dad, you LEAD your Children!  
You are the parent...they are the child. It is NOT an equal partnership!  
I used to laughingly tell me children when they said: "That's not fair..." You are right...I'm the daddy!  
De 6:4 *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*
- *A Double Portion of the Inheritance:*  
A little disagreement on this one, exactly what it entails: Some say Get it ALL, Some say double, some say nothing  
Double is what the OT law requires...but we aren't AT that time frame yet.  
But here is what we know is true in the NT: This is the inheritance we can forfeit if we aren't careful!  
Eph 1:18 *I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,*  
Col 1:12 *giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.*  
Col 3:24 *...you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*  
Every time we fail to teach our children to honor God and walk with Him, we forfeit a little more of the spiritual inheritance God has promised! We teach them to be just like Esau, and sell eternal things for the things of this world!

- *Special Blessing Of the Father:*  
Which in this instance is the passing on of the promise of God to Abraham and his descendants!  
Land God Promised:      Descendants God Promised:      Blessing of God on their life!  
All of that Esau was willing to trade for a bowl of soup! So dramatic, So cavalier, So unconcerned with Spiritual

That's why Heb says: DON'T be like Him! He treated the things of God with CONTEMPT

The word means he Totally disregarded God's promises...meant nothing to them...

They were in the future, He couldn't see them...The PROMISE meant nothing...Because there was something in FRONT of him that he could see that he wanted!!!

Every time we teach our children to value what they see...Career, Money, Sports, Desires, Hopes over the things of God we are like Esau...treat the things of God with contempt!!!

- *Priesthood of the family: (Recognized Spiritual leader of the family)*  
Esau traded away the spiritual leadership of the family for a meal. The spiritual leadership meant little..if anything  
Dad's, listen to me...Don't you be Esau: Don't surrender spiritual leadership Don't you "delegate" that to your wife  
Don't you be so focused on your career, your home, your boat, your sports...that you opt out of spiritual leadership  
You LEAD your family spiritually: I still remember when my girls were young...Dad, are we going to church?  
Of course...why? Because our family honors God on the first day of the week. Not because I'm a pastor..What we do!  
>We honor God in worship on the first day  
>We tithe...even if it costs us something we want  
>We speak the truth, even when it is hard to do, and no one wants to hear it  
>We keep our commitments, even at the cost to ourselves and our desires and our wants....say it...do it!  
Illus: A couple weeks ago I was talking to my daughter...moving from one job to another...so proud of her  
New job wasn't a good fit. Made some promises...everything changed...  
"Why are you leaving so soon?" Dad, I felt I needed to tell the truth...so I did!" (That's my girl)  
"By the way...something else you need to know: "I will finish well...you pay me for a job...as long as I'm here"  
Then she said something..."That's what my dad always told me to do...don't ruin your reputation last two weeks...Finish well...that's what we do!  
Tell the Truth...Finish Well....Do what You Say You will do...Because those things honor God

CONCL: Three Applications:

- Not yet a follower of Jesus: Don't trade the things of THIS world for Spiritual life that COULD be yours
- Know Him: Christian: Don't trade God's blessing for sin...Every time we sin...Trade His hand for what we want
- Fathers: LEAD your families...Never too late to start...Teach them to LIVE...not just KNOW God's will