

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS
Commentary by Michael Sigler
October 27, 2013

Truly Blessed!

Read Genesis 28:1, 10-22

Key verse: “I am with you now, I will protect you everywhere you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done everything that I have promised you” (Genesis 28:15).

Genesis 36 lists the descendants of Esau, their wives, their children, their flocks and herds of livestock. Genesis 36 also tells us that Esau was even given his own country, Edom, which is another name for Esau. In a time and place where wealth was measured by how many wives, children, flocks and herds, and by how much land one possessed, Esau was an extremely wealthy man.

In a sermon titled “The Dark Side of Grace,” Hershael York compares the blessings of Esau with the blessings of Jacob. York notes, “You had best not mistake material blessing for spiritual blessing.”

York adds: “In distinction to Esau, there’s Jacob, God’s favored one. What did Jacob get? He got a *tent*. He lived [most of his] life in a tent with his father, Isaac, and his grandfather, Abraham. He never had a house. They lived nomadic lives, always wandering around.

“Yet we live in an age of Christianity where we value Esau more than Jacob. We interpret the goodness of God more by the blessing of Esau than by the favor God bestowed on Jacob. If Esau lived today, we would put him on TV. He would sit there on the couch, and we would ask him, ‘Tell us how God has blessed you and how we can have it as well.’ Jacob wouldn’t be invited to go anywhere. Nobody would want to hear his story. Can you imagine him stopping by a television studio?”

When we look at God’s promise to Jacob in Genesis 28:13-15, we see that the blessings promised to Jacob go far beyond material blessings. In fact, Jacob’s blessings include these remarkable words: “Every family of earth will be blessed because of you and your descendants” (v. 14).

God’s blessing on Abraham, passed on to Isaac and Jacob and their descendants, now includes “every family on earth” because of Jesus: “He

redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit” (Galatians 3:14).

In Christ, we are truly blessed:

In Christ, we are forgiven.

In Christ, we are adopted into God’s forever family.

In Christ, we have God with us always, in good times and bad.

In Christ, God supplies all of our needs.

In Christ, we are the recipients of God’s un-measurable love.

In Christ, we are the recipients of God’s amazing grace.

In Christ, we have a purpose for living.

In Christ, we have power over the world, the flesh, and the devil.

In Christ, we have life abundant and eternal.

The list goes on. When I read in Genesis 28 about Jacob’s blessings, I am impressed. When I realize that, in Christ, we are blessed with even greater blessings, I am forever thankful. In Christ, we are truly blessed!

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