

Minster Bethel Congregational Church (MBCC)

17/10/2020 - Genesis 25

Choices



"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples from within
you shall be divided;

the one shall be stronger than the other,
the older shall serve the younger."

(Gen. 25:23)

All lockdown services can be found at: www.mbccs.co.uk

" So then, my friends, try even harder to make God's call and his choice of you a permanent experience; if you do so, you will never abandon your faith."
2 Peter 1:10

Good morning and welcome to this week's thoughts.

**Our hymn today is
"I have decided to follow Jesus"**

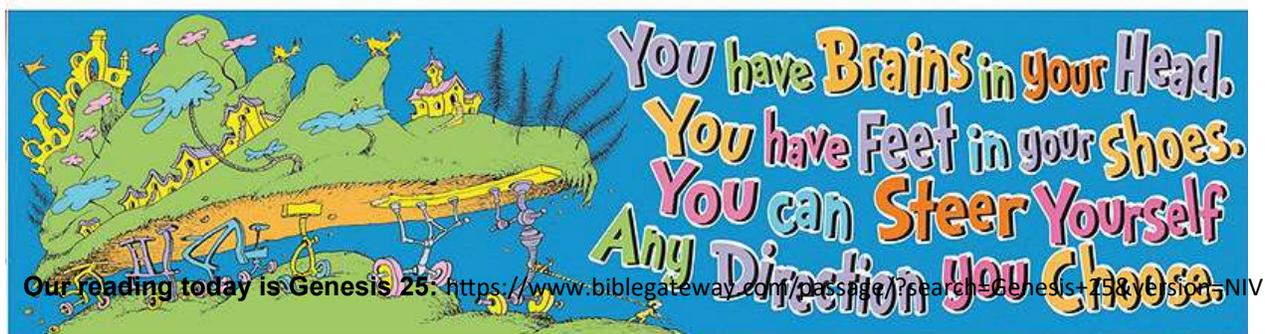
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L9h9UjIkMM>

I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
No turning back, no turning back

Though none go with me, still I will follow;
Though none go with me, still I will follow;
Though none go with me, still I will follow;
No turning back, no turning back

The world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me;
No turning back, no turning back

Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
No turning back, no turning back





MY BIRTH CERTIFICATE

First Name _____

Middle Name _____

Last Name _____

Birthdate _____

Birth Order _____

My skills & talents _____

My birthright is _____



Last week we read one of the first greatest love stories with Isaac and Rebekah finding each other and marrying. This week's passage tells of the death of Abraham, the one inevitable part of life, a time of sadness but also a time for looking to the future.

As the circle of life goes Isaac and Rebekah had twins: Esau and Jacob.

Esau made a really poor choice that affected his entire life. Why? All because he was hungry! But before we dive in, let's talk about an important piece of Esau's story. It's something called "birthright."

Your birthright is what you're born with or born into. Some things that are considered a birthright are your family's name and your family relationships. It can include your family's reputation. It includes property, such as your house, car, or livestock. Your birthright is a big deal—it represents what you can claim as yours in the world.

If you were born during Bible times, and even in some cultures today you might have a more valuable birthright than your younger siblings.

Let's think about our birthright. Write your first, middle, and last name on the certificate above. Your name is perhaps your most important birthright. Your parents chose it for you and it usually sticks with you forever. No one can take away your name unless you make that choice.

Esau had a twin brother named Jacob. Esau was born first. Jacob was born holding onto his brother's heel. Now take a look at your birth certificate. Write your birth date. Now, think about your birth order. Were you born first like Esau, second like Jacob, or somewhere else in line? List that on your certificate.

What things are part of your birthright? Your family's house, money, belongings, pets, cars, toys, you name it. List a couple of those things on your birth certificate.

Remember: Esau was born first. He would inherit the most, including property, houses, money, and livestock. Esau wouldn't have to worry about these things. But then, something happened.

One day, Esau came in from the fields where he'd been hunting. He was very hungry. You know what that's like! Jacob was cooking up a tasty stew and bread when Esau came in, and it must have smelled wonderful. Esau naturally wanted some of the tasty food.

Jacob who was born second, whose birthright was much smaller than his brother's, said, "I'll give you this food if you sell me your birthright." Esau didn't even hesitate. He said, "I'm so hungry I'll die; what good is my birthright?" And he agreed to sell his birthright to his brother right then for a bowl of stew, bread, and a drink. That's almost like giving away all your possessions for a meal!

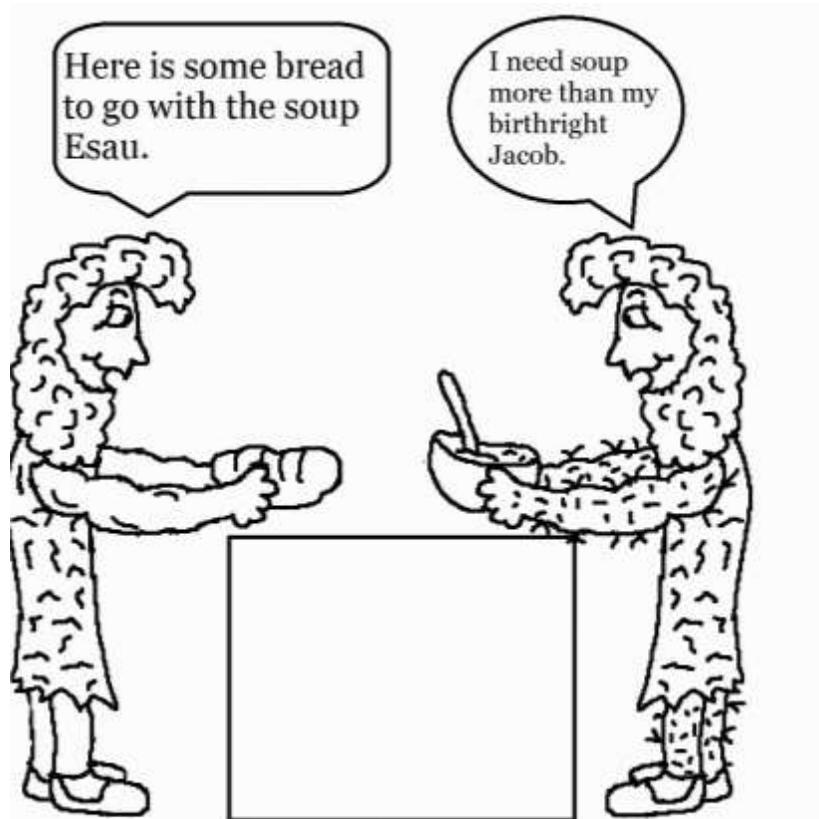
Now, take another look at your birth certificate. Would you trade any of those things for one meal.

It's true: Esau made a very poor choice. Let's ask God to help us make good choices, not to rush to what we want but to be patient and make choices that are positive for us and all those around us.

Let's pray.

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us the freedom to make our own choices. Thank You most of all for guiding us toward making good choices and for helping us when we ask. Please stand beside us when we face tough choices and help us make good decisions. Amen



Jacob and Esau Coloring Page

(Genesis 25:34) Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright.

May God's blessing surround you each day.

As we trust in and walk in His way;

May His presence within,

Guard and keep us from sin;

Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.