

SERMON GENESIS 25:27-34

Series Jacob narratives 'God moves in a mysterious way' #2

IBC Eindhoven, 31 January 2021

CLOSER LOOK AT THE TEXT

- * vs 27-28: setting the stage – no apology
 - * No excuse for parental liking and favouritism
 - * No moralising - not even in the next infamous episode - moral distinctions are disregarded
 - * Question then remains, what does the Bible teach us here?
- * vs 29-30: language of a hungry man...
- * vs 31-33: unclear re oracle vs 23 + oath
 - * All sorts of questions about what do Jacob/Esau know about oracle unanswered
 - * Verse 31 - Birthright for a stew... unheard of... position of authority, power and inheritance
- * vs 34: ate/drank/up/left ...
- * So Esau despised his birthright

TEACHING AND APPLICATION

- * Contrast in narrative: between deferred and immediate material blessing
 - * Esau is controlled by his stomach, his feelings of starvation (or just very hungry) - focussed on the now, on the what can be taken, managed and controlled now
 - * The Bible concludes that Esau despises his right for deferred material blessing

HEBREWS 12:12-17

- * Address to 2nd generation: tired of waiting
- * Hebrews 11 – cloud of witnesses who endure
- * vs 1 and 14: Call for holy living
 - * This will not always give immediate satisfaction - true well-being cannot be grasped, but can be received only as a gift
 - * Can we wait and resist the temptation to satisfy our immediate needs in stead of waiting for the Spirit to touch our hearts and satisfy our deepest needs to be loved and appreciated
 - * Modern technology is often in our way - so easy to go to the internet - to be distracted from what you are supposed to do - to watch websites that satisfy your immediate needs but rob you of the peace of God
- * vs 12-13: Holiness through practise + exercise
 - * make level paths for your feet - i.e. make the physical and social environment such that you can work in it for good
 - * seek places where temptations are not excessive
 - * undertake tasks that can be accomplished
 - * Church is important - inspiration, support, connect, your voice is worth to be heard - if you want to be heard by God then practise with your neighbour
- * Isaiah 40:28-31 *He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

SUGGESTION FOR REFLECTION AND SHARING

1. "Be holy, for I the LORD am holy" - Leviticus 19:2. Reflect on this call from Scripture and ask yourself prayerfully 'what does being holy mean for me today?' Then ask the Holy Spirit to fill you and enable you to respond this divine call.
2. Recall and possibly share an experience when you received the grace to wait, which turned into a blessing. And the other way round, recall an event when you didn't wait, which turned into a negative experience.
3. Read the preceding verses of Isaiah 40:28-31, perhaps even from verse 1 onwards. How does God help the people of Israel to wait upon Him?