

Mid-Week Devotion



Stolen Blessings

Read Genesis 27:30-38 **“Bless me, even me also, my father.”**

Throughout the movie “Forest Gump,” the viewer is blessed by Forest’s mother’s words of wisdom, “Life is like a box of chocolates,” Forest would exclaim, “you never know what you’re going to get.” God’s blessings for us are no different.

On day when Isaac was very old and death was near, he summoned his eldest son Esau so that he could bestow upon him his blessing as was due him as the first-born son. However, there was one problem, Isaac’s wife, Rebekah, wanted the blessing to go to the younger son, Jacob, whom she loved more than Esau. So, in a plan rivaling the best “mission impossible” plots, Jacob aided by his mother, steals his older brother’s blessing! When Esau finds out he has been betrayed he cries out to his father, “Bless me, even me, my father.” However, there is nothing with which to bless Esau, for Jacob had received everything; all his father can tell him is that his younger brother is now his master! In a fit of revenge, Esau plans to kill his brother only to be robbed of that when Jacob is sent away to find himself a wife.

Esau’s blessing was to serve his younger brother; it was not the blessing he wanted, it was not the blessing he deserved nor expected, but it was nevertheless God’s blessing for him. God had even told Rebekah this before she delivered her twin boys, saying, “The older shall serve the younger.”

We spend our whole life praying for God to bless us, yet the blessings we receive never quite seem to be what we expect. Perhaps this is because most of the blessings we seek are those that can be stolen away from us. We pray and ask for blessings like good jobs, financial security, good marriages, children, sound friendships, and good health. While these are all blessings for sure, all of them can be stolen from us in a heartbeat. The only true blessing, the blessing that can never be stolen from you, the one blessing you have always possessed, is your identity as a beloved child of God. Having that one true blessing is enough.

Esau saw his blessing in terms of things that were stolen from him, as a result, he is driven insane with rage to the point of wanting to kill his twin brother; when he is robbed of that also, he marries a woman his father did not approve of, just to spite him. Over time however, Esau finds his true blessing, his relationship with God and when his brother eventually returns, instead of killing him, he himself becomes his brother’s blessing.

I don’t know what blessings God has for you, except that they are many, and that they will never be what you expect. Perhaps that in itself is another true blessing.

Father, bless me, ...even me also, in Jesus name Amen.