

A man in a green long-sleeved shirt is seen from behind, with his hands clasped behind his head. He is looking out over a vast, hazy mountain range under a cloudy sky. The overall mood is contemplative and aspirational.

Clasping the Heel

A DESIRE FOR MORE

Pursuing the Birthright

Genesis 25:19-34



**Do you appreciate what you
have in your hands?**

Genesis 25:19-28

¹⁹ This is the account of the family line of Abraham's son Isaac.

Abraham became the father of Isaac, ²⁰ and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan Aram and sister of Laban the Aramean.

²¹ Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was childless. The Lord answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. ²² **The babies jostled each other within her**, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the Lord.



Genesis 25:19-28

²³ The Lord said to **her**,

“Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger.”

²⁴ When the time came for her to give birth, there were **twin boys** in her womb. ²⁵ The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him *Esau* [*hairy*]. ²⁶ After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau’s heel; so he was named *Jacob* [*grasps the heel*]. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them.



Genesis 25:19-28

²⁷ The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the **open country**, while Jacob was content to **stay at home** among the tents. ²⁸ Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.





THE BIGGER STORY

**A profound invitation to discover
and live out who God is**

This is the account of the family line of Abraham's son Isaac. (Genesis 25:19)

Genesis 25:29-34

²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. ³⁰ He said to Jacob, “Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I’m famished!” (That is why he was also called *Edom* [red])

³¹ Jacob replied, “First sell me your **birthright**.”

³² “Look, I am about to die,” Esau said. “What good is the **birthright** to me?”



Genesis 25:29-34

³³ But Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore an oath to him, selling his **birthright** to Jacob.

³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left.

So Esau despised his **birthright**.





Birthright = *bechor*

the sole carrier of the primary responsibility to
carry on the legacy of his Father



THE FIRST BROTHER: ESAU

INDIFFERENCE

*“Look, I am about to die,” Esau said.
“What good is the birthright to me?” (Genesis 25:32)*

Genesis 25:24-26a

²⁴ When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. ²⁵ The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him *Esau* [*hairy*]. ²⁶ **After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named *Jacob* [**grasps the heel*].**

[*also a Hebrew idiom for *he deceives*.]



Genesis 25:29-32

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THE SECOND BROTHER: JACOB

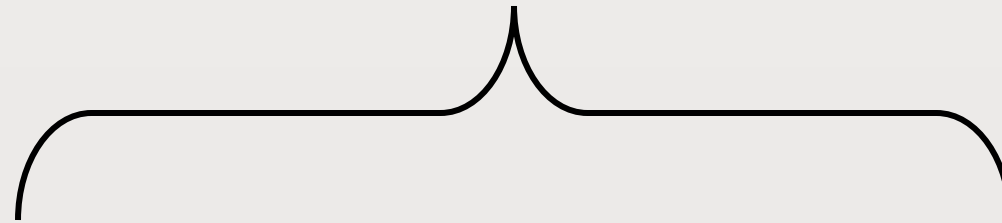
PURSUIT

But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob. (Genesis 25:33)



THE BIGGER STORY

A profound invitation **to discover**
and live out who God is



INDIFFERENCE
OF ESAU

PURSUIT
OF JACOB

Genesis 25:34

³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau **despised** his birthright.



Genesis 25:34

³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left.

So Esau **despised** his birthright.

“You don’t know what you’ve got til it’s gone, they paved paradise and put up a parking lot...”

- Casting Crows



Hebrews 12:14-17

¹⁴ Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵ See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

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. ¹⁷ Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. **Even though he sought the blessing with tears, he could not change what he had done.**

