

Jacob 2 - Compounding Sin

1. Saving face

Last week we looked at how Esau despised his birthright and sold it to his brother. Jacob's heart in this matter was not right, but the one who had the power to lose or keep the birthright was Esau. Esau exercised foolish judgment, but his foolishness didn't stop with the sale of the birthright.

Gen 26:34-35 And Esau was forty years old when he took to wife Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Bashemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite:
35Which were a grief of mind unto Isaac and to Rebekah.

The first clue you have that something is wrong with Esau's choices in marriage was that the Bible plainly says that they were a grief of mind to Isaac and Rebekah. The understanding that commentators have from the names of his wives' fathers is that they were prominent leaders in pagan society. That fact alone should cause a collective groan and eye roll. How many times do we hear about the problems that come from being unequally yoked in marriage? We are going to cover this more in a little later, but right now we want to notice that Esau took these wives after not learning his lesson earlier over the birthright.

When it comes to foolish judgment, people have a way to dig a hole for themselves deeper. This is similar to the problem of debt. When you get a credit card, they charge you compounding interest. That means that they not only charge you interest on the balance you owe, but they charge you interest on the interest for the day before. When you consider typical credit interest this could add up and a \$4,000 credit balance could take you over 20 years to pay back and add on an additional \$6,000 of debt. Compounding adds problems to your problems.

There is something about sin that makes you stupid. When people can't

admit they were wrong but have to save face they end up doing things to make it look like they think what they did was perfectly normal. Once you enter stupid then stupid breeds stupid. It has been well said that sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay. It is a common meme today that refers to some decisions taking a special kind of stupid. It takes a special kind of stupid to not repent but continue on in ungodly choices.

2. Choosing your way to destruction

The Bible is full of warnings about life spiraling out of control. For those who just cannot bring themselves to say yes to the conviction of the Holy Spirit and the testimonies of God's people, they will end up in Hell step by step and choice by choice to close their ears to the Gospel. It is different for a person who is saved. They are going to end up in glory by God's sustaining power.

2Tim 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

However, there are many Christians who end up a spiritual mess and disaster step by step and choice by choice because they shun repentance.

- Falling asleep at the wheel

When someone becomes calloused to the things of God and lose appreciation for what they have, they are like a driver who falls asleep at the wheel. When you are driving you just can't afford to lose your attention. Spiritually, we must stay alert.

Prov 24:30-34 I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of

understanding;

31And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, *and* nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down.

32Then I saw, *and* considered *it* well: I looked upon *it*, *and* received instruction.

33*Yet* a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

34So shall thy poverty come *as* one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.

Esau had already lost his appreciation for what God had for him, but then he didn't pay attention to the alarm that this should have caused when he sealed the deal of the loss of his birthright. Things could have changed at this point, but he took the next step down and then the next step. He married not one, but two pagan girls and subjected himself to the influence of their pagan families and culture. He might have claimed he was just getting married, but life is filled with men from a Godly background whose pagan wife's influence drew them away. Solomon was one of them!

- Step by step

Ps 1:1-6 Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

This Psalm presents such a picture of someone going down step by step, choice by choice. We see the way of the ungodly. At first he steps out of the path of Godly counsel. He is walking, but by and by he pauses to linger, standing around with sinners. He is compromising at this point and maybe he thinks he couldn't go lower. Then, he gets comfortable as he seated with the scornful. He wasn't so opposed to God at the beginning, but he ends up in mocking scornfulness. At any time he could have repented by turning to the law of the

Lord. As a Godly man he could have taken a different path and kept walking in the light.

2But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

3And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

4The ungodly *are* not so: but *are* like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

5Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

6For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

In the end destruction descends upon the unrepentant.

- A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump

Unchecked, sin will grow like yeast in a lump of dough.

Gal 5:7-9 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

8This persuasion *cometh* not of him that calleth you.

9A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

No one wakes up one day and says, "I think I will become an alcoholic." For some it happens faster than others, but the old adage is true, "First the man takes a drink, then the drink takes a drink, then the drink takes the man." Someone might say, "But I control my drinking." Anyone I have ever known who thought he was controlling his drinking descended into trouble. Who wakes up one day and said, "I think I will fry my brain today with drugs." Then there is the gambler who is certain that after losing so much that he

has run out of bad luck so good luck is on the throw of the next dice or the next lottery ticket, "The odds are with me now!" Sin is like a fungus that multiplies and grows.

- A weak faith

Later, in ch. 28, we see that Esau makes an attempt to remedy his situation, but it is a weak attempt. After losing the blessing to Jacob that he should have had, he took notice that Isaac and Rebekah sent Jacob away to get a wife from their kin back home.

Gen 28:6-9 When Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob, and sent him away to Padanaram, to take him a wife from thence; and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan;

7And that Jacob obeyed his father and his mother, and was gone to Padanaram;

8And Esau seeing that the daughters of Canaan pleased not Isaac his father;

9Then went Esau unto Ishmael, and took unto the wives which he had Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife.

It is obvious that Esau thought it would be better to have a wife from Ishmael because he, too, was kin. However, he did not consult his parents about this. It seemed like a good idea, but as one commentator points out:

If not to himself, at least to his pious parents, this fresh matrimonial alliance could not fail to be a grief. The daughter of Ishmael was certainly better than a daughter of the Hittites, being almost as near a relative on Isaac's side as Rachel and Leah were on Rebekah's; but, unlike Rachel and Leah, who belonged to the old family stock (the

Terachites) in Mesopotamia, Mahalath descended from a branch which had been removed from the Abrahamic tree [by God, Himself]. (*Pulpit Commentary*)

You even have to ask, was this even a matter of a weak faith? It is possible that it is only mere manipulation of his parents.

3. The remedy

The most obvious remedy would for Esau to have surrounded himself with Godly counsel.

- First counsel, the Word of God

2Tim 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

- Second counsel, the preaching of the Word of God

There are those who in their immaturity piously proclaim that they do not depend on men but on God for their wisdom. It is true that the Bible is our only actual authority, but God has also worked through men. This might require caution, but it should be pointed out that

1Cor 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

Col 4:3-4 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:

4That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

2Tim 3:14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of,

knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*;

1Thess 5:20 Despise not prophesyings.

For those who despise prophesyings, or preaching, you have to ask would they only be satisfied if we restricted ourselves to only reading a Bible passage out loud and closed the service? Would such people be critical of Ezra when the Jews came back from the captivity? Ezra was held in as high esteem as Moses by the Jews. He has been called the Father of Judaism and the Second Moses.

Neh 8:5-8 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up:

6And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with *their* faces to the ground.

7Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law: and the people *stood* in their place.

8So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused *them* to understand the reading.

Notice that Ezra and the company of priests didn't just *read* the Scripture but gave the sense of it so the people could understand it.

There are also those who give short shrift to the preaching of God's Word. Any preacher who is worth their salt has to spend time studying to make sure he has right understanding of the Scripture he is about to preach. You can be pretty sure that when you go to church you are not going to only hear things you already

know.

- Third counsel, Godly men and women

Prov 1:5 A wise *man* will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

Prov 8:33 Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.

Prov 10:8 The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall.

Prov 12:15 The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.

Prov 15:31 The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise.

Prov 18:15 The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.

Prov 19:20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

- The response to counsel: repent

Rom 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

2God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Rom 13:11-14 And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed.

12The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

13Let us walk honestly, as in the

day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

14But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.

Pastor Siebold shares a though challenge each week with preachers. This challenge was so timely this week:

Col 4:2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

Pastors who are not praying are playing.

People who are not praying are straying.

Parents who are not praying are paying.

The lost need to wake up and stop making excuses for rejecting the Gospel. If you are saved, you can make the choices that take you deeper into sin or you can set yourself on course to God's blessings.

1. Saving face Gen 26:34-35
2. Choosing your way to destruction 2Tim 1:12, Prov 24:30-34, Ps 1:1-6, Gal 5:7-9, Col 4:2, Gen 28:6-9
3. The remedy 2Tim 2:15, 1Cor 1:21, Col 4:3-4, 2Tim 3:14, 1Thess 5:20, Neh 8:5-8, Prov 1:5, Prov 8:33, 10:8, 12:15, 15:31, 18:15, 19:20, Rom 6:1-2, 13:11-14