

Morning Worship Service

February 3, 2008

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MISSING GOD'S GRACE

Introduction: God has grace for every need in life - what happens when we fail to appropriate that grace?

Hebrews 12:15-17

“See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. 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. Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. He could bring about no change of mind, though he sought the blessing with tears.”

We are to look after one another so that we do not fall behind in receiving God's grace.

I. **D AMAGED FAITH**

1. Question the **REALITY** of God
2. Question the **LOVE** of God.
3. Question the **PRESENCE** of God

Esau was a **PROFANE** man – **CARELESS** about God.

II. **D IMINISHED BLESSINGS**

1. Inner Spirit - **FRUIT** of the **SPIRIT**
2. **PURPOSE**
3. **OUTWARD** Blessings

Esau sold his birthright and lost the blessing of the first born.

III. **D EVELOP BITTERNESS**

1. Against **GOD**
2. Against **OTHERS**
3. Against **CIRCUMSTANCES**
4. Against **LIFE**

Esau - Gen. 27:24 - *“He burst out with a loud & bitter cry.”*

Gen. 27:41 - *“Held a grudge against Jacob and wanted to kill him.”*

IV. **D EFILE MANY - “AND SO POISON THE WHOLE COMMUNITY” (TCNT)**

1. **EVERYONE** close to us
2. **RIPPLE** effect to others

Esau's actions **DIVIDED** his family and his **DESCENDANTS** became constant enemies of Israel.

V. **D OWNWARD SPIRAL INTO SIN**

Esau married **PAGAN** wives who became a **GRIEF** to his parents.

VI. **D EFEATED LIFE**

Esau missed the best that God had for him because he fell short of the grace of God.

Conclusion: *“There is no opportunity in this life which cannot be missed. The grace of God brings to us the opportunity to make ourselves and to make life what they are meant to be. A man may in his lethargy, his thoughtlessness, his unawareness, his procrastination, miss the changes which grace brings to him. Against that we must ever be upon the watch.”* (William Barclay)