

Faith of our Youth

inside...

Although the story of Jacob and Esau is familiar to many people, the root problems involved seem to be missed all too frequently when the topic is being discussed. While Jacob was without excuse in regard to his actions, the ultimate problem was in the thinking of Esau. The line of thinking that lead to his loss is one of Satan's favorite snares. This is what will be addressed in this article. I hope that it will provoke thought and be of some use to each reader.

The portion of the story that we will be dealing with is found in Gen. 25:27-34.

Consider a condensed summary of each point.

1. Although Esau was a SKILLED HUNTER, (V.27) he opted for the quick and easy way to deal with the situation instead of exerting himself and using what he had.

2. His view of reality was warped and distorted. Was he ACTUALLY about to die?? (V. 32) It's doubtful. Quite possibly this was the way he felt, but it was nowhere near the case.

3. Esau acted in a short-sighted

(See "Jacob" on page 2)

Annoyed by Blessings?

Amy Swearingin

Not very many weeks ago I joined the thronging millions who make up the American work force. I was fresh out of college, bright-eyed, bushy tailed and as "green" as they come. I eagerly recruited two car pool companions to share the 30 minute drive to work (partly out of my environmentally conscious nature but mostly because it saves me money on gas). I can honestly say that I had never noticed (much less cared) how often a person blinks their eyes. But the most amazing thing happened to me the morning of October 10th. I was sitting in the back seat of a small two door car while one of my car pool companions drove (did I mention that the car was small?). I was sitting in just the right position to see his eyes in the rear view mirror. At first I did not notice what would soon consume my entire trip that morning. It wasn't long, however, until I fixated on the number of times the

unassuming driver was blinking. The more I watched, the more annoyed I became. He blinked his eyes every 3-4 seconds during the entire ride to work. I started comparing the number of his eye blinks to mine and realized that he blinked, on average, 2-3 times more often than I did. Now, I have no idea why this began to annoy me so much.

Perhaps I was concerned that he could not focus on the road between his rapid eye blinking. Maybe my eyes became sympathetically tired watching him blink so often. Or it could be (and probably was because) I was looking for something that I would allow to irritate me

(See "Annoyed" on page 4)

*"It is amazing
(and always
disappointing)
how many of
life's little things
I let bother me."*

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Do You Fear God?

Abby Woody

The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction"

—Proverbs 1:7—

What exactly does it mean to "fear" the Lord? In Webster's New World Dictionary, fear is referred to with such words as fright, awe, and reverence. Can we as Christians, truly say we are frightened of the Lord? Do we truly hold the Lord in reverence?

In Proverbs 3:7 it states *"Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil"*. In thinking we are wise in our own eyes we are not fearing and being reverent to the one and only true God. Only the foolish are full of pride, so let us depart from all evil foolishness. Being boastful before the Lord can be no more than a hindrance to us all.

Pertaining to wisdom and knowledge, Proverbs 3:13 reads; *"Happy is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding"*. We may all gain happiness in the fear of the Lord, because fear is the beginning of knowledge. By studying His Holy Scripture and singing praises and praying to Him, we gain knowledge.

In conclusion, my thoughts are summed up in Ecclesiastes 12:13; *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments for this is the whole duty of Man."*

Abby Woody lives in Brighton, IL. She is in the eighth grade and plays on the basketball team. She is a member of the Lord's church at Prince Road in Alton, IL.

"Jacob" (Continued from page 1)

manner. In his immediate hunger he placed a bowl of soup above his most prized possessions and later regretted his hasty actions.

4. Esau despised his birthright. Rather than placing importance and honor on the gift that had been given to him, he lowered it to a level that made it of no practical importance.

Even though we should learn from mistakes, most of us will never (hopefully) have the time to make them all and, therefore, should learn from the mistakes of others. The spiritual applications to this story are

quite possibly endless. Temptations are sometimes like the hunger that Esau felt. Although we have a way to deal with them effectively through God's help, (1Cor 10:13—*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*), the tendency is to want a quick and easy way out. When this happens we all too often don't try to find God's way out just as Esau failed to try to find food. Our reality can become distorted and warped and to prevent this we have to redirect our focus.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

—Rom. 12:1-2—

Everything starts to look a whole lot better when we realize that our faith is much more than a nice (but empty) idea to pacify us and God almighty is more than that. We can never lose reality, only our illusions of it. This is because the truth of God's reality is constant. When our attitudes and thoughts begin to coincide with those of Christ we can begin to see clearly. We must never forget that although we WILL have tests and temptations they are either for our ultimate good or because of our lust. *"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."*

—James 1:2-4—

Faith in action is quite often realizing that God is the ultimate controller and has given us a gift beyond any physical birthright. This line of thought can enable the Christian to escape the trap of short-sighted thinking and have hope in the ultimate prize.

Last, but absolutely not least, we must hold the GIFT of Christ in higher esteem than anything else. Period. As long as the thought of crucifying Christ again (Heb. 6:4-8) for the sake of something (a temporary pleasure or a quick fix) despicable and filthy horrifies us, temptation will be bearable if not easy. We have become brothers to Christ (Heb. 2:9-18) because of his willingness to give himself. Will we give that up for a bowl of soup?

John Baugh lives in Cottage Hills, IL. He is currently attending Ranken Technical College in St. Louis, Mo., majoring in automotive technology. He will soon graduate and hopes to work in the automotive field while continuing his education in music. He is a member at the Prince Road church of Christ that meets in Alton, Ill.

"Only the foolish are full of pride."

"Temptations are sometimes like the hunger that Esau felt."

HERE & THERE

SMART ROAD Brandon Lee is going to Longview. Wade Stanley is at Warrensburg. Brad Bratcher went to Tan-Tara for four days as part of a music trip performing for a music educators convention. Shannon Tegtmeyer is down in Springfield going to school. Darren Tegtmeyer and Kyle Stevens are working this semester. Kevin Hobbs busted up his knee in a skiing accident. Currently he is on crutches, but he is going to need surgery.

SUMMERSVILLE Jason Greear was off lifting weights when I first tried to get him. He reports that the church has a new roof but, more importantly, they think they have the air conditioner fixed. He's working at a saw mill with his dad. Meanwhile, sister Jodie is playing volleyball and going to SMSU at West Plains. Jennifer and Jeannine Ross are at Bolivar in school. The former is thinking about nursing, and the latter is into physical therapy. She had some practical experience working for the football team. Heather Vaughn is at UMR at Rolla enrolled in the engineering program.

ITASCA Danielle Schrage's school is expanding because it's crowded. She's

getting ready to start badminton season, that will mean 3 hours a day practices and looking forward to competition with other high schools. The gangs at school are getting worst, so she stays safe by sticking with the right people. She enjoys being pen pals with Emily Rogers and hopes to visit her during spring break.

MURRAY ROAD Ben Morris is about the only teen that's left during school time. Many are away at other colleges. He's involved in debate now that the music season is finished. John and Jeremy are at SMSU in Springfield. Kathy Germann is going to cosmetology school and will be finished in Sept.

LAWRENCE Michelle Martin is applying for LPN school this fall. She's going to Johnson County Community College. Jed Spencer is at K-State. He enjoys the school life and is going into landscaping. He currently is attending a congregation that lost its minister and is interested in trying mutual ministry. Karen Spencer is at SMSU and will be doing her student teaching this fall. Chris Allen (from Nixa) is going to KU in the architectural program.

ARTICLE & SONG WRITING WORKSHOP

Date: Saturday, April 8, 1995

Time: 9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Place: Church of Christ, Ozark, Missouri

Instructors/Topics:

James Baysinger: Development of material for tracts or short newspaper articles that grab attention.

Lewis Garbi: Song writing techniques (lyrics and music) for new hymns and spiritual songs.

Glen Owens: Hands on development of a short article for a church bulletin.

Tom Woody: Effective writing for the communication of the "Gospel Message". What an editor looks for in a good article for publication.

The congregation will provide lunch and dinner. If you plan to attend, it is important you sent a note of registration to help make arrangements.

Writing Workshop, % Dwain Stoops
401 E. Mt. Vernon, Nixa, Missouri 65714

Young Christians—

—For making "FOOY" an edifying and encouraging medium for sharing faith, truth, and news. The response has been great from writers/reporters to readers. The mailing list is up to near 250 and growing. We encourage others to submit articles and reports for the June issue.

"JOURNAL OF FAITH"

A book of timely sermons by nine Evangelist & preachers with over 400 years of aggregate experience and wisdom in the Faith, is scheduled for publication in mid-1995. Young and old alike will greatly benefit from these "lessons for tomorrow". More info will be forthcoming.....

*Thank
You!*

**Coming
Soon!**

