Treasure your birthright

Questions:

1. Read Gen 25:21-23. Who are the two nations and two peoples in Rebekah’s womb? Who was God’s chosen to bring blessings to all nations? How do we become God’s chosen people as in 1 Peter 2:9?

2. Read Gen 25:29-34. What did birthright mean to Esau? What did it mean to Jacob? What does the “birthright” of child of God mean to you?

3. Find all the birthright privileges of a child of God in Ephesians 1:3-9, and 1:13-14. Share how you treasure your birthright in Christ more after this study.

=== sermon notes ===

(slide 1) God answers Isaac’s prayer in keeping his promise

Gen 25:21 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.

1. Isaac and Rebecca married when he was 40, and now 60
2. Abraham was 100
3. 25:22 The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, “Why is this happening to me?” So she went to inquire of the Lord.

(slide 2) The birthright and God’s sovereignty and goodness

Gen 25:23 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.”

1. God is naming who is the child of promise- as Isaac
2. Isaac, Jacob, and 12 tribes of Israelites
3. Birthright in Jesus is everybody who believe
4. Sovereignty and goodness

(slide 3) How to love equally and differently regardless birth order?

Gen 25:27 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.

1. Good example of not to love your children this way
2. Isaac’s reason is even absurd and selfish
3. Rebekah’s may not be good as well- over giving and sacrificing?

(slide 4) The birthrights as God’s children are precious

Gen 25:32 “Look, I am about to die,” Esau said. “What good is the birthright to me?” 33 But Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob.. Esau despised his birthright.

1. This is illegal transaction on both, trading what God has ordained

(slide 5) Treasuring your birthright as a child of God

*1. Adoption into God’s family*

“In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will” Ephesians 1:4

1. No more homelessness
2. Citizenship is so precious

(slide 6)

*2. Redeemed from slavery of sin*

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace ” Ephesians 1:7

1. Claim victory to bondage of sin
2. So good to be free

(slide 7)

*3. Made known to God’s will*

“With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure” Ephesians 1:8

1. No longer blind but see

(slide 8)

*4. Assurance of eternal inheritance*

“When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance ” Ephesians 1:13

1. Victory is won

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Lord Jesus Christ, such a precious gift from you that we are called the children of God. Thank you for giving us birth through the Holy Spirit. Lord, help us treasure this birthright of ours. It is your will that makes us a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and beloved sons and daughters of yours. Help us live a life according to your everlasting love. Amen.

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. 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. 26 After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau’s heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them. 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.

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.) 31 Jacob replied, “First sell me your birthright.” 32 “Look, I am about to die,” Esau said. “What good is the birthright to me?” 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.

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, 9 he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,

10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. 11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

Communion

Jesus scarifies himself, so we can live. He invites us to come to him and believe more to purify us again and again. We come to him gladly come to him to lay down our burdens, confess our sins, so that we will be affirmed with his pardon and receive his grace.

Let us start the confession response.

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

(together)

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

PJ gives the Assurance of Pardon (Romans 8:15-17):

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.