

Esau

Esau's life was filled with choices he must have regretted bitterly.

Esau seems to be a person who found it hard to consider the consequences of what he said or did.

Esau reacted to the need of the moment without realising what he was giving up to meet that need, a vivid example of this is recorded in scripture.

Genesis 25:29-34 [New King James] *“Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he was weary. And Esau said to Jacob, ‘Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary.’ Therefore his name was called Edom. But Jacob said, ‘Sell me your birthright as of this day.’ And Esau said, ‘Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?’ Then Jacob said, ‘Swear to me as of this day.’ So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.”*

Trading his birthright for a bowl of stew is very foolish, but Esau did not think ahead, only the present need.

Esau acted on impulse, satisfying his immediate desires without any consideration of long-term consequences of what he was about to do.

We can fall into the same trap, every time we see something we want, either a physical object or a physical pleasure, our first impulse is to get it.

At first we feel intensely satisfied and sometimes even powerful because we have obtained what we set out to get, but immediate pleasure often loses sight of the future.

Only if we compare the short-term satisfaction with the long-term consequences before we act can we avoid the “*Esau trap*.”

Too often we exaggerate our need, Esau said “*Look, I am about to die.*”

This made his choice much easier in his mind.

The self-imagined and distorted perspective made Esau's decision seem to be urgent. We also can allow our mind to follow such a pathway to our decision.

For example, strong sexual attraction of the opposite sex may make our marriage vow seem unimportant at that moment.

Getting through the short, pressure-filled moment is often the most difficult part of overcoming a temptation, [Matthew 5:27-28].

Esau, after explosive anger at how Jacob had cheated him, was able to forgive, [Genesis 27:41-42; Genesis 33:1-4].

Malachi 1:1-3 [New King James] *“The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi. ‘I have loved you,’ says the LORD. ‘Yet you say, “In what way have You loved us?” Was not Esau Jacob's brother?’ Says the LORD. ‘Yet Jacob I have loved; but Esau I have hated, and laid waste his mountains and his heritage for the jackals of the wilderness.’”*

The introduction to the statement by the Creator God about Esau, is that He loves all people because He has made us in His “*image*,” [Genesis 1:26-27].

However, the Creator God's rewards go only to those who are faithful to Him.

Some people are cynical about the love of God using political and economic progress as a measure of that love.

The Israelites assumed that God didn't love them because He allowed corrupt government to ruin the economy.

The term “*Esau I have hated*” simply means that God had chosen Jacob to be the one through whom the nation of Israel and the Messiah would come, [Romans 9:10-13].

Ironically Israel rejected the Messiah after God had chosen them to be the nation to whom the Messiah would come.

The greatest lesson we can learn from Esau is to find a focal point in our lives other than “*what we need now.*”

The only worthy focal point is the Creator God. A relationship with Him will not only give an ultimate purpose to our lives, it will also be a daily guideline for living. **We meet the Creator God in the pages of His Word, the Christian Bible.**