

Jacob Esau and Baptism 1480

“Then Jacob gave Esau bread and a bowl of lentils, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.” Genesis 25:34

In the day the first-born son received: the farm – the bank accounts – tractors – the cows – the grain – the headaches – everything.

It was called the Birthright.

In big families it seems a bit unfair, especially for girls, that one gets the lot.

Would you be jealous?

It was never God’s intention that the firstborn just got rich. It was always intended that the one who carry’s the birthright and gets all the wealth - is the one who looks after the entire extended family.

Jesus is called the first-born Son – can you see where this is going.

Jesus inherited the farm – to be a blessing to all.

The potential for abuse and jealousy is massive.

As we heard Jacob tricked Esau, the firstborn son, into giving him his birthright.

Have you ever wondered why in the New Testament Paul looks over the group of people he is talking to – males, females, young and old, and calls them “sons” or “brothers”?

It’s profound, it’s an honour.

- Paul is saying you and I have the birthright – the blessing!
- You and I, male and female, have the right to be called first born sons, heirs of the kingdom.

But now people demand that we change God’s word to be inclusive – you can’t call ordinary men and women – sons of God – heirs.

Our translations now say that Paul calls his people “sisters and brothers”.

Sorry, in the kingdom no sisters, and no brothers. There are only first-born sons.

We are first-born sons – heirs of the kingdom – not brothers and sisters.

It grates in 2023 doesn't it – so let's change God's word.(not)

Anyone who carries the title “first-born son” carries the birthright – we inherit the kingdom of heaven and all the responsibilities that goes with it!

And like the first-born sons of old our responsibility with all this wealth is to share it – to preserve the family – to look after those who don't have the inheritance.

We are baptized into the family of God – we become the heirs of the kingdom – we become blessed to be a blessing.

Listen to this: *“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...”*

Have you heard Jesus prayer near the end of his ministry in John (17):

It's a long prayer simply saying: *Father I have given them (us) everything that you gave to me.*

Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one – ²³ I in them and you in me

It's our privilege to be an heir, a first-born son of the Father.

And what a privilege we have to share what he has first given to us – the good news that Jesus died taking on the consequences of our sin to make us right with him – making it right for us to be called heirs/son of the kingdom.

What is the most important word in the Lord's Prayer? It's the very first word “Our”.

The moment Jesus said “Our” Father he verbalised the truth that whatever he has – we also have – including the same heavenly Father.

The moment he said “Our Father” he became our brother.

Things never went well for Esau who sold his birthright for a bowl of stew – so flippant – so disrespectful.

He ended up Esau was murdered by his brother's nephew.

You know, while we are firstborn sons – heirs of the kingdom – are we any different to Esau when we fall into sin.

- A Bowl of stew for my birthright.
- A secret affair for my right to be called a child of God.
- A stroke of a pen crime for my right to be called baptised.
- An everlasting ongoing hate, an ongoing racism, an ignorance for my right to be called Jesus brother.

There's a bit of Esau in all of us this side of heaven.

Don't sell your baptism for a bowl of stew.

You have a divine responsibility to share the blessing first given to you.

You too can make a man, or a boy a first-born son of God.

You too can make a women or a girl a first-born son of God.

When those come to you with a bowl of stew – hold tight to the power and blessing installed into your baptims – say no.

If you say yes – come to the lord with a true heart because his pray still stands.

Father forgive the for they not what they do.

Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. [Father let none be lost]

You know the prodigal Son lived a life of sin which separated him from the Father.

You know how he lived with the wild women and the pigs

He long for that place back with the Father,

Did you know he was the youngest Son – the oldest son stayed home – the oldest son had the birthright.

The youngest son returns home sheepishly – just wanting to be a worker and get a feed.

But the love of the father fully restores him and gives him all the things which are meant for the older brother the robe, the ring, the fatted calf.

The Father gives the younger son the birthright.

The prodigal son story tells us anyone who turns to the father gets the birthright and the farm.

Today Jasiah get's the birth right and more than the farm but the kingdom of god.

Spider man (and others I think said)“Where there is **great power**, there is a **great responsibility**.”

Luke says the same: From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

Much is expected of Jasiah because of his status – an heir of the kingdom.

No wonder we surround them with family and God parents and the congregation.

Let's step up. Let's not see him sitting under a tree eating a bowl of stew.