

WHEN GOD REWRITES YOUR STORY

PRECEPT

Genesis 25:27-34

²⁷ When the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter, an outdoorsman. Jacob was a quiet man preferring life indoors among the tents.²⁸ Isaac loved Esau because he loved his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.²⁹ One day when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau arrived home from the wilderness exhausted and hungry.³⁰ Esau said to Jacob, "I'm starved! Give me some of that red stew!"³¹ "All right," Jacob replied, "but trade me your rights as the firstborn son."³² "Look, I'm dying of starvation!" said Esau. "What good is my birthright to me now?"³³ But Jacob said, "First you must swear that your birthright is mine." So Esau swore an oath, thereby selling all his rights as the firstborn to his brother, Jacob.³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and lentil stew. Esau ate the meal, then got up and left. He showed contempt for his rights as the firstborn.

PROMISE

It's easy for us to look at Esau and judge him. How could anyone trade a lifetime of Blessing for a single bowl of soup? The truth is, the enemy hasn't changed his strategy. The enemy still offers us soup, and we still trade our birthright. Many Christians today are trading their birthright in exchange for complacency: for a quiet, comfortable, and uninterrupted life. We want God's blessing, but sometimes we use the wrong methods. We compromise our integrity for God's favour, but God cares not only about what we pursue but also how we pursue it. Proverbs 10:9 says, "He who walks in integrity and with moral character walks securely. But he who takes a crooked way will be discovered and punished." In every sin there is a consequence, but the amazing thing is that God still meets us. God meets us in our struggles and failures. 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

PAUSE. Often, our worst decisions stem from reacting in the moment rather than reflecting on the bigger picture. Practice slowing down and pausing.

PARTNER. Have accountability and surround yourself with brothers and sisters in Christ who can encourage, support, and challenge you in your faith. Permit them to ask you hard questions about your life, work, family, and your walk with God.

PRE-DECIDE. Decide what you will say "No" to before you are hungry, tired, or tempted. Decide your boundaries in advance.

Exit the environments and patterns that keep pulling you backwards. If you're becoming a person of integrity, practice honesty. If you're becoming disciplined, build disciplined routines. And if you're becoming someone who follows God, make prayer and bible reading part of your daily life. Your new identity should produce new habits. You can't fully embrace who you are becoming while continually returning to your old patterns. Your worst decision doesn't have to be the end of your story; it's not too late. God can still redeem what was lost, restore what was broken, and rewrite your story for His glory.

PRACTICE

1. **Story.** Have you ever had a plan for your life that turned out completely differently than you expected?
2. **Personal Reflection.** Are there areas where you are trying to control the outcome instead of trusting God? And how can we pray for you regarding this?

PRAYER

I. Growth

- May He guide us as we seek to grow in faith and character, and to learn from Christ.

II. North Life Groups

- Pray for these couples as they lead; Ocampo, Ico, & Imperial.

III. East Life Groups

- Pray for these couples as they lead; Gumasing & Padilla.

IV. South Life Group

- Pray for the Drapeza couple as they lead the South group.

V. West Life Groups

- Pray for these couples as they lead; Oliveros, Alibayan, Fabregas, Gamboa & Padilla.

VI. Circles

- Pray for the Core & Subcore as they lead Circles youth & young pro.

VII. Life Groups

- Pray for the formation of more life groups for God's glory.