



A YEAR
with
GOD
Daily Devotional

DAY 20



A PUBLICATION OF GOD'S THRESHING PLACE
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DAY TWENTY

Genesis 25 - 26

The God Who Stays

Abraham is one hundred and seventy-five years old when he dies. The text says he breathed his last and died at a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people. Full of years. It is one of the most peaceful epitaphs in Scripture for a man who spent most of his life as a tent-dweller, wandering a land that was promised but not yet fully possessed.

Isaac and Ishmael bury him together in the cave of Machpelah, beside Sarah. The two sons of the same father, from different mothers, separated by the consequence of impatience, standing together over one grave. And the text moves on.

Every generation inherits both the blessings and the unresolved tensions of the one before it. The question is not whether we will receive both. The question is which one we will let define us.

Chapter 25 gives us the birth of Esau and Jacob - twins who were already struggling with each other before they entered the world. Rebekah feels them wrestling in her womb and asks God what is happening. And God answers:

*“Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated;- **Genesis 25:23***

Two nations. Two peoples. The struggle in the womb is not random. It is the beginning of a story that will play out for generations - Israel and Edom, Jacob and Esau, two brothers who will never fully make peace. God sees it before they are born. He tells Rebekah: the older will serve the younger. The expected order will be reversed. He is already working the inversion.

God has a habit of choosing the younger, the smaller, the overlooked, the one no one expected. He does not work by the world's hierarchy. He works by His own, which runs in the opposite direction.

Esau sells his birthright for a bowl of stew. He is hungry, he is dramatic, he says he is about to die - and Jacob, who has been waiting for exactly this moment, has the stew ready. He names his price. Esau agrees. He eats. He drinks. He rises. He leaves. And the text delivers its verdict in six words: he despised his birthright.

- The birthright was the promise. The inheritance. The future. And he traded it for lunch. We shake our heads. And then we do the same thing in a hundred smaller ways every week.

What you are willing to trade your future for in a moment of hunger reveals what you actually believe about the value of what God has promised you. Guard what He has given you. Not every craving is worth the cost.

Chapter 26 is, in many ways, the Isaac chapter. And it begins with something that will feel familiar: a famine. God appears to Isaac and tells him not to go to Egypt - unlike his father, he is to stay in the promised land. And God reaffirms the covenant: I will be with you. I will bless you. Through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed. Because Abraham obeyed my voice. Isaac stays. He prospers. He digs wells - the wells his father dug, which the Philistines filled with dirt after Abraham died. He renames them with the same names his father gave them. He is recovering the inheritance. Reclaiming what was buried.

There is a generation being called to redig the wells that were filled in - to recover the inheritance of faith that was buried by opposition or neglect or time. What your spiritual fathers built, you may be called to uncover and restore.

But first - and this is the part the text doesn't let us look away from - Isaac arrives in Gerar and tells the men that Rebekah is his sister. His father Abraham told the same lie in the same city to the same king. Word for word, almost, the deception repeats. Abimelech looks out a window, sees Isaac and Rebekah together, and realises the truth. You might expect God to be exasperated. Instead He appears to Isaac that very night and says: I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid. I am with you.

God did not say: I am with you because you were honest. He said: I am with you. Full stop. His presence is not

contingent on your performance. It is anchored in His promise. And His promise does not waver because yours did.

The Philistines eventually ask Isaac to leave because he has become too powerful. And Abimelech comes to him and says: we see plainly that the Lord has been with you. Even the people who asked him to leave could see the blessing on his life. You cannot hide what God is doing in a person. It shows.

“We saw clearly that the Lord was with you.”

- Genesis 26:28

The goal is not to convince people God is with you. It is to walk so closely with God that they cannot help but notice.

Speak this over yourself today:

God's presence is not contingent on my performance.

He chose me before I earned it.

I will not trade my future for a moment's craving.

And what God is doing in my life will be impossible to hide.

TOMORROW - Day 21 Genesis 27–29

Jacob is about to take what isn't his. And God is about to give him a dream that will ruin him for ordinary life. Come back tomorrow - because the ladder Jacob sees is not just a dream. It is a door.

Day 20 of 365

AFRICAN PRAISE



Filled with joyful songs, uplifting praise and inspiring moments of worship, African praise showcases the unique ways African cultures honors and glorify the creator. Let the drums resound, let every voice be lifted and let every heart rejoice in the goodness of God.

*"Praise Him with tambourine and dancing;
praise Him with strings and pipe" — Psalm 46:10*

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS

6:45AM

THE THRESH ONLINE RADIO

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