



Title: In a Minute

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Series: Forefathers

Text: Gen 25

Synopsis: If you have children, especially teenagers, you have had the experience of asking them to do something and having them tell you “in a minute”. The problem, of course, is that the minute never comes. There are always a hundred distractions. A friend calls, another TV show comes on, or they suddenly remember they have a ton of homework to do, etc. Eventually you get tired of hounding your child and you do the task yourself. You then feel terribly guilty for being a horrible parent. Sound familiar?

In a lesser way, this is what Esau does in rejecting his birthright. The task of the first-born was significant to the whole family. The first-born son was given a double portion of his father’s inheritance, but with the extra wealth and status came extra responsibility. The first-born son was to be the family protector and leader. He was to care for his aging parents and the unmarried women of his clan. He had job to do.

Esau trades his birthright, and thus his responsibility, for a bowl of stew. After a long day of hunting he is hungry and he asks his conniving twin brother for something to eat. Jacob responds by saying, “Sure, if you sell me your birthright.” Esau responds, “I’m so hungry I’m gonna die. What good is my birthright,” and he sells it to Jacob. Esau was more concerned with his empty stomach than with the important job he had to do. Like a spoiled teenager he tells God “in a minute.”

As we read the story 4000 years later, it’s easy for us to be critical of Esau, but if we are honest, we have a lot more in common with Esau than we care to admit. Jesus died for us and gave each one of us a task to do. Don’t tell God “in a minute”. That minute may never come and your inheritance may be lost forever.