

## **Biggest Losers in the Bible** **Esau**

### ***He's a man who had a lot going for him at birth.***

- \*He was firstborn into a rich family uniquely favored by God, 25:19-28,
- \*His sportsmanship made him the favorite son of his famous father.

### ***He's a man who traded away his birthright for a quick bite.***

- \*He trades his birthright (many great privileges) to Jacob for *red stuff*, 29-34.
- \**Despised* = undervalued. Esau's values are clearly all out of whack.
- \*Heb. 12:16 offers Esau as an example of how not to respond to our very privileged position and future as believers. The context here is about believers; recall Esau did receive a minimal blessing, 11:20, Gen. 36:6-8.
- \*Esau's heritage will be the nation of Edom, which will be of no real consequence and frequently be under Israelite control.

*How might we trade away our "birthright"?*

### ***He's a man who just couldn't make a good decision or get a break.***

- \*Esau foolishly marries outside the faith (26:34) plus becomes a polygamist like unimpressive Lamech, 4:19.
- \*Again Esau loses out to Jacob (Isaac's blessing), but this time through his brother's deception, 27:1-40. Note he blames Jacob for the birthright deal!
- \*In a misguided attempt to gain favor with Isaac, Esau again errs by marrying into Isaac's estranged side of the family (Ishmael), 28:6-9.



Mal. 1:2,3, Rom. 9:10-13 make clear God's choice of Jacob over Esau, but this does not negate Esau's lack of responsibility, plus he was blessed as well.

What if Esau had just accepted God's choice of Jacob and sought after spiritual things and married within the faith?