

The Eternal Love of God  
Genesis 25:19-34; Malachi 1:1-5

Review:

1. We are all as unworthy of God's love as we are helpless to earn it by any of our actions
2. In His sovereign grace, God has chosen to set His love on undeserving sinners like us
3. God will keep His promise to bless all those who trust in Christ, the Seed of Abraham

Reflect:

1. What do you think about the doctrine of election, the idea that God chooses those on whom He sets His saving love? Are you fearful that God will make the wrong choice? Or does the cross give you confidence in God's self-sacrificial, unconditional love for sinners?
2. Christ's cross and empty tomb complete the saving work of God's love. How do you respond to this fact? Are you frustrated that you can't participate in your own salvation? Or are you relieved that you don't have to earn God's love?

Go further: Read Genesis 25:19-34

1. Whose son was Isaac?
2. How old was Isaac when he married, and who was his wife?
3. According to verse 21, what did Isaac ask God to do and why?
4. How did the Lord answer Isaac's prayer?
5. What problem prompted Rebekah to inquire of the Lord?
6. What did God tell Rebekah that each of her twins would become?
7. How did God describe the relationship between the twins?
8. What was the appearance of the first of the twins to be born? What was his name?
9. What was the second of the twins doing when he was born? What was his name?
10. How old was Isaac when God answered his prayer for Rebekah?
11. After they were grown, what different things did the twins like to do?
12. Which twin was the favorite of each parent?
13. Why did Esau ask Jacob for some of the stew Jacob had made?
14. What did Jacob demand in return?
15. How did Esau respond to Jacob's demands?
16. How does verse 33 say that Esau felt about his birthright?

Summary and Application:

1. What sorts of problems have prompted you to seek God in prayer? How has God answered your prayers? How do the prayers of Isaac and Rebekah give you hope in your own difficulties?
2. How long did Isaac have to wait for God to answer his prayers? How does this encourage you in your own prayer life?
3. In Isaac's family, the birthright of the firstborn included the covenant blessing that God gave to Abraham. What do Esau's actions say about the value he placed on God's promises? What does Esau seem to have valued more than his birthright?
4. What sorts of things are you tempted to value more than the promises God has made to you in Christ? What can you do to get your priorities back in the right order?