

2017 READ IT THROUGH IN 52

Week 2: Genesis 23-50

Theme: Choices

Memory: Genesis 50:20 *"What you meant for evil, God meant it for good."*

1. Genesis 25: Our choices reflect our values
 - A. In 25:34 it states *"Esau despised his birthright."* This was a significant reflection of his value system. He sold it because he did not value it. Learn from Esau's experience and cherish what God has given you; do not sacrifice what God gives you for anything or anyone.
2. Genesis 32: Our choice to deal with dysfunctional relationships
 - A. Jacob left home to escape the wrath of his brother Esau who had vowed to kill him (see chapters 27-28). After 20 years God directed Jacob to return home and re-unite with his brother. In this reading we learn valuable principles for resolving conflict between you and another person.
 - (1) Meet with God before you meet with the other person (32:1)
 - (2) Deal with the fear factor and issues of intimidation (32:7)
 - (3) Use wisdom to protect yourself during the meeting (32:7)
3. Genesis 34: Our choices can put us at risk.
 - A. Dinah acted foolishly and put herself at risk. In your opinion, what was the attraction that drew her to the Canaanite women and away from the safety of her family and home?
 - B. Our spiritual enemy likes to distract us with things we don't have but think we need. Yielding to temptation is the epitome of narcissism; it is about fulfilling our personal desire while disregarding how the desire may affect your relationship with God and or other people.
4. Genesis 37: The dreamer
 - A. What dreams do you have that are so big you hesitate to share them with anyone for fear they would not believe you? How are these dreams reflecting in your planning? Are you motivated more by regrets from your past or dreams about your future?
 - B. In chapters 42-50 we read where Joseph had opportunities to exercise revenge over Potiphar's wife and his brothers for the hurt they caused him. In your opinion, why did Joseph pass on opportunities to seek revenge?
 - C. When we choose to not forgive people who offended us, we sow the seed of bitterness in our spirit which chokes out the Fruit of the Spirit. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you forgive people who have hurt you make the conscious decision to not seek retaliation.
5. What was the primary lesson you learned from your reading this week?