

# “Who’s Got The Will?”

## Introduction

### A little boy prayed for a brother

Pray really hard and God might answer

- Stopped after about two weeks
- Twin boys were born
- Daddy – “Aren’t you glad you prayed?”
- Son – “Yes, but aren’t you glad I stopped when I did?”

### Passage:

*Malachi 1:2-3 NKJV* "I have loved you," says the Lord. "Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?' Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" Says the Lord. "Yet Jacob I have loved; (3) But Esau I have hated, And laid waste his mountains and his heritage For the jackals of the wilderness."

## Question: What did Esau do that was so bad?

*Genesis 25:28-34 NKJV* And Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob. (29) Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he was weary. (30) And Esau said to Jacob, "Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary." Therefore his name was called Edom. (31) But Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright as of this day." (32) And Esau said, "Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?" (33) Then Jacob said, "Swear to me as of this day." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. (34) And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. **Thus Esau despised his birthright.**

## Esau’s Birthright

### Esau had the birthright.

Birthright is any privilege or right to which someone is entitled by birth. He was the oldest and thus the chief heir of Isaac.

- He was in charge of his father’s household.
- He received inheritance to be divided as he chose.
- He received the blessing of his father.

### No one could take it away.

- It could be sold
- It could be given

### He despised his birthright.

He gave it away for food.

He didn’t even need the food.

- **Vs 30** – “I’m famished.”
- **Vs 32** – “I am about to die.”
- **Vs 34** – “He ate, drank, then got up and left.”

Someone who is dying of malnutrition doesn’t behave this way.

***Esau traded his birthright for something to satisfy his momentary desire.***

# Our Birthright

## Access into the Family.

This is open for all

**John 1:12** "Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God."

**Romans 8:16-17** "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings..."

## 1. We have a right to know God as Father!

**John 20:17 NKJV** Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.' "

Jesus refers to God as "my Father" more than 36 specific times prior to the resurrection.

This is the first time he refers to God as "your Father."

Notice, I did not say, "**CALL** Him Father" but "**KNOW** Him as Father"

- Everyone has a father
- Not everyone knows their father
- Not every father behaves as a father.

This is the heart of who God is.

i) we learn how to treat our children by how God treats us.

- Forgives
- Discipline
- Instructs
- Loves unconditionally

ii) Our children get their concept of who God is from their Father.

iii) Satan is fiercely attacking Fathers.

- In an article entitled "Fathering Fatherless America" Dr. Scott J. Larson reports: One in two children now grow up without a father in the United States, and in our inner cities only one in five children live with their father. A whole new mission field has developed in America: Fathering fatherless kids.
- One startling bit of research conducted by the Christian Business Men's Committee found the following: When the father is an active believer, there is about a seventy-five percent likelihood that the children will also become active believers. But if only the mother is a believer, this likelihood is dramatically reduced to fifteen percent.
- Josh McDowell has been trying to find out what dads are doing in Christian families, and the news isn't good. In his book The Dad Difference, McDowell reveals that there seems to be a parenting gap. These statistics are from McDowell's book: The average teen in our churches spends only 2 minutes a day in meaningful dialogue with his dad. 25% of these teens say they have never had a meaningful conversation with their father--a talk centered on the teens' interests.

Not just "Father" but "MY Father."

- I belong to Him. I am His responsibility.

- I see to it that Nathan is clothed
- I see to it that Nathan is fed
- I see to it that Nathan has everything he needs.

## 2. We have a right to approach His throne!

*John 16:26,27* "In that day, you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me..."

We have unlimited access to the throne of Almighty God.

## 3. We have a right to share in His power!

*Acts 1:8* "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you..."

- To defeat sin
- To defeat Satan
- To win others to Christ.

## 4. We have a right to experience His victory!

*John 16:33* "In this world you will have trouble, but take heart! I have overcome the world."

*Romans 8:37* "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."

We don't have to barely make it.

- Some southern gospel songs
- "One day at a time" is not all we should be asking from God.
- Some of us aren't even asking that.

## 5. We have a right to anticipate His return!

*John 14:1-3* "Let not your hearts be troubled, you believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and receive you unto myself so that where I am, there you may be also."

This should excite us.

The preacher in seminary who got tired of hearing that the Lord is coming.

DL Moody,

- when asked "How do you keep preaching with such passion?"
- answered, "It is the very sober realization that Christ could return before I walk off this platform."

## Our Decision

### This birthright cannot be taken away.

- Atheists can't **DOUBT** them away.
- Scientists can't **EXPLAIN** them away.
- The economy can't **DEplete** them away.
- The Supreme Court can't **RULE** them away.
- Congress can't **VOTE** them away.
- The President can't **VETO** them away.
- The military can't **BLOW** them away.

- Satan can't **SNATCH** them away.

## **But you can WASTE them.**

**NEGLECT** them and they will do you no good.

Each right affects the next right.

- **You don't know God as Father – Its because you don't approach His throne.**
- **If you don't approach His throne – how will you share in His power?**
- **If you don't share in His power – how will you experience His victory?**
- **If you don't experience His victory – why would you anticipate His return?**

**Hebrews 2:3** *"How shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation?"*  
**You can SELL them.**

What is the enemy offering you?

- **Pleasure?**
- **Financial Security?**
- **Stubborn Pride?**

**GET THIS!! You are a Child of Almighty God. Does your life reflect this? Why not?**

## **Conclusion**

### **The immigrant family coming to America.**

- Sold all to buy a ticket for him and his family
- Filled sacks with all the food they could carry for the journey.
- The captain did not see them at dinner.
- After several weeks he sent a steward to find out why they did not dine with the rest of the passengers.
- Steward noticed a smell coming from the quarters.
- The man replied, "packed all the food I could find for my family, but it is not keeping and is beginning to rot."
- Steward – "Why did you not join the Captain and the rest of the passengers for dinner."
- Man – "I spent all my money on the ticket."
- Steward – "Sir, the privilege of eating at the Captain's table was included in the price of the ticket."

**Are you eating at the captain's table?**

**Are you living like a child of The King?**