

Genesis 25 –Esau Sells his birthright

This manuscript is a summary for a full expression of the sermon please download the audio file.

Seek First the kingdom of heaven.

Philip Yancey-Personal Illustration.

"Is it easy to become a victim of your own success and become a celebrity, do you recognise this?"

At a later date Yancey said....

"I would say I am aware of how counter the American culture authentic faith is. We're in a celebrity culture and when I turn on the news today I hear about Lindsay Lohan, Tiger Woods and Paris Hilton and the Kardashians and Dancing with the Stars, one thing after another, Kate Gosselin's new body. When I travel overseas and I'm with these people who live much closer to the edge where their concern is how do I feed my family, how do I love, and how do I care for those around me? That's essentially what life is mostly about. I tell of having this automobile accident and when I talked to the students at Virginia Tech, I said, I'm laying there, could be my last day on earth because the doctor said it could. It boiled down to three things: who do I love, how have I spent my life and am I ready for what's next. I truly believe that."

Eugene Peterson- the pastor's pastor.

Eugene Hoiland Peterson (November 6, 1932 – October 22, 2018) was an American-born clergyman, scholar, author, and poet. He wrote over thirty books, including Gold Medallion Book Award winner *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language*^[1] (Navpress Publishing Group, 2002), a paraphrase of the Bible.^[2]

Peterson always said he would never pastor a church where he couldn't know the name of all the people. (300)

"The most important thing a pastor does is stand in a pulpit every Sunday and say, 'Let us worship God.' If that ceases to be the primary thing I do in terms of my energy, my imagination, and the

way I structure my life, then I no longer function as a pastor."
Eugene H. Peterson

Jim's mowing- Ill- This franchise seems everywhere, Jim must be a very talented man.

Jesus' carpentry- Ill- Jesus could have spent his time establishing a business empire.

The passage.

The death and burial of Abraham. The promise of the blessing fulfilled upon Ismael.

The birth of Esau and Jacob

Esau sells his birthright.

Point- Esau and Jacob- Esau cannot see the future inheritance, instead can only perceive the now, and thus swaps a better future for an easier now.

How do we swap what God has promised to us, for an easier now?

"Seek first the kingdom of God?"

Matthew 6:31-33 (NLT) "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' 32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. 33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

"Shalom" of God - the Sabbath is a beginning.

"If you don't take a Sabbath, something is wrong. You're doing too much, you're being too much in charge. You've got to quit, one day a week, and just watch what God is doing when you're not doing anything." Eugene H. Peterson

"If you keep the Sabbath, you start to see creation not as somewhere to get away from your ordinary life, but a place to frame an attentiveness to your life." Eugene H. Peterson

Work is just one aspect of an overall picture in a life which is FOCUSED for God

"Why doesn't the Bible address career choice? One likely reason is because in biblical times, career choice was not an issue. Men usually went into the family business--whether fishing or sheep herding or carpentry or being a merchant-- and women usually got married and had babies. "What should I do with my career?" was not a burning issue of the times."

God may not seem to give much instruction as to what to do for work, but how you go about it is very much on his mind.

"Regardless of our occupations as plumber, trash collector, teacher, mechanic, or pastor, we cooperate with God in doing good work."

WORK- We can get caught up with the meaningless, rather than the meaningful.

Jesus and those who served in the army, do your job with justice.

Jesus and tax collectors- do it justly

Women of Godly character- Mary and Martha and their work

Seek community in the church borders.

"There's nobody who doesn't have problems with the church, because there's sin in the church. But there's no other place to be a Christian except the church." Eugene H. Peterson

"When you are part of a megachurch, you have no responsibility to anybody else." Eugene H. Peterson

"People are not problems to be solved. They are mysteries to be explored." Eugene H. Peterson

How do you model it.

"As a blessing of the New Covenant, believers are indwelt and empowered by the Spirit to serve the common good in cooperation with God (Ezek 36:26-27; 2 Cor 3:6)"-

<https://tifwe.org/resource/three-exemplary-jesus-practices-about-money-and-work/>

How do you follow it?

The Kingdom of God is those who reside within it's borders seeking to carry out the will of the King!

Show it to others who are outside it.

III - Landing Lights- Sometime the fuel needs to be dumped!!!!
We are the landing lights of the kingdom of God, we allow those who have yet to join in the Kingdom to find their way. We do have to accept that sometime these planes need to dump some fuel before they can touch down, it's not always a pretty experience.