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Series: Rescued by God – A Study of Genesis 12-50
Sermon: Worldly Success vs. Spiritual Success

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

**Genesis 37:1 (ESV)** Jacob lived in the land of his father’s sojournings, in the land of Canaan.

**2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (ESV)**  
16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.  
17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,  
18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Success only in worldly standards is a failure with where it matters most.

4 areas where Esau and his descendants succeeded in this world, but failed terribly in light of eternity:

1. **A beautiful family by the world’s standards does not equal a family blessed by God.**

   **Genesis 36:1-6 (ESV)**  
   1 These are the generations of Esau (that is, Edom).  
   2 Esau took his wives from the Canaanites: Adah the daughter of Elon the Hittite, Oholibamah the daughter of Anah the daughter of Zibeon the Hivite,  
   3 and Basemath, Ishmael’s daughter, the sister of Nebaioth.  
   4 And Adah bore to Esau, Eliphaz; Basemath bore Reuel;  
   5 and Oholibamah bore Jeush, Jalam, and Korah. These are the sons of Esau who were born to him in the land of Canaan.  
   6 Then Esau took his wives, his sons, his daughters, and all the members of his household, his livestock, all his beasts, and all his property that he had acquired in the land of Canaan. He went into a land away from his brother Jacob.

2. **Material prosperity does not equal spiritual prosperity.**

   **Genesis 36:6-8 (ESV)**  
   6 Then Esau took his wives, his sons, his daughters, and all the members of his household, his livestock, all his beasts, and all his property that he had acquired in the land of Canaan. He went into a land away from his brother Jacob.  
   7 For their possessions were too great for them to dwell together. The land of their sojournings could not support them because of their livestock.  
   8 So Esau settled in the hill country of Seir. (Esau is Edom.)

3. **Political power does not equal power with God.**

   Esau and his descendants were men of great political power.

4. **Temporary fame does not equal eternal recognition by God.**