

While praying:

- \* There are a lot of teachings going on that don't encourage us to live right (be righteous).
- \* God wants us to be encouraged to do what is right; it needs to be taught. His people need to hear what they are supposed to hear.
- \* We are to follow God and His commandments.
- \* The world is only a temporary home; we need to invest in our eternal home, not just in the present.

In this portion, Yitz'chak and Rivkah (Isaac and Rebecca) give birth to twins, Jacob and Esau. God has favor on Yitz'chak and blesses all that Yitz'chak does. Esau gives up his birthright to Jacob for a little food and also Jacob takes Esau's blessing by deception. Esau plans to kill Jacob because he took his blessing, but Jacob is sent away in order to protect Jacob and also so he can find a suitable wife. We perhaps sense that Esau is an out of control person; he marries two unbelieving Hittite wives that cause trouble for the family, probably spiritual trouble.

God had told Abraham that his descendants will be a blessing to the whole world. Isaac and then Jacob become the heirs of spiritual blessing and it seems apparent that Esau has become an heir of the worldly. I sometimes think of Yeshua's (Jesus') temptation in the wilderness when I think of mankind's propensity to make one's life goal a worldly goal.

The adversary, the devil tempts Yeshua (Jesus) in Luke 4:1-13 NKJV:

1 Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. 3 And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." 4 But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'" 5 Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. 7 Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours." 8 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" 9 Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. 10 For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you,' 11 and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" 12 And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'" 13 Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

What did Yeshua use to fight off the temptations of the devil? He used the scriptures. We need to be taught the scriptures and study the scriptures so that we know what is right in order to make good choices. We also need to understand that the devil can put wrong thoughts in our head. If we don't know how to live right, we could end up going along with those deceptive thoughts.

That's why the world is such a mess. People are making wrong choices because they don't know how to live right and they make up their own rules. Not only that, like I said, their choices can sometimes be influenced by the demonic. Kefa (Peter) said, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him;" 1 Peter 5:8-9 NKJV. The demonic forces are out there to mess up our lives and those in the world. How can you resist the devil if you don't know the right way to live?

We need good teaching on how to live right. Shaul (Paul) said, "And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will;" 2 Timothy 2:34-26 NKJV. The people who don't know how to live right are prisoners (captive) of demonic ideas and are following deceptive concepts and ideas.

The Bible says that people who live in sin are being held captive. People become slaves to their lifestyle. We either live for God and follow His commandments or we live and follow the sinful behaviors of the world. It says in Romans 6:12-13 CJB, "Therefore, do not let sin rule in your mortal bodies, so that it makes you obey its desires; and do not offer any part of yourselves to sin as an instrument for wickedness." We either become people of blessing or we become tools (instruments) for wickedness.

God wants us to live right and not be imprisoned by wicked behaviors. We need to find out what is right and then stick to it. Yeshua quoted scripture back at the devil. We also need to know the scriptures too so that we are not taken captive by wrong behaviors that bring destructive and wrong behaviors into the world.

Even though Jacob wasn't perfect, he becomes a person of blessing that brings God's blessings into the world. We should understand that there is not only a physical transference of blessing, but also a spiritual transference of blessing. Esau's decisions brought trouble, but Jacob ended up following the true God and continuing the line of blessing.

And, we can do that too. We can be people who resist doing what is wrong and be a blessing to the world. We can be a people who learn what is right, listen to God, make an effort to live right, and become the people that God wants us to be.

We can become God's people in the here and now and then sometime in the future, we will be with God for eternity. God promises that to all who believe in Him and follow Him and His Messiah Yeshua. Shaul said, "It will take but a moment, the blink of an eye, at the final shofar. For the shofar will sound, and the dead will be raised to live forever, and we too will be changed." 1 Corinthians 15:52 CJB. It's going to happen fast; are we ready?

Since those who do what is right have something so amazing to look forward to, we should have our thoughts and desires on our eternal life. This present life is not all there is; instead, it is a time of testing. Will we become people like Jacob who lived his life in relationship with the true God or will we be like Esau who sold his birthright for temporary fulfillment? Shaul encourages us, "While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal." Will we seek only what is temporary or will we also seek what is eternal?