

IMPULSIVE DECISIONS

ONE DAY WHEN JACOB WAS COOKING SOME STEW, ESAU ARRIVED HOME FROM THE WILDERNESS EXHAUSTED AND HUNGRY. ESAU SAID TO JACOB, "I'M STARVED! GIVE ME SOME OF THAT RED STEW!" "ALL RIGHT," JACOB REPLIED, "BUT TRADE ME YOUR RIGHTS AS THE FIRSTBORN SON." "LOOK, I'M DYING OF STARVATION!" SAID ESAU. . . . BUT JACOB SAID, "FIRST YOU MUST SWEAR THAT YOUR BIRTHRIGHT IS MINE." ~ GENESIS 25:29-30:33 (NLT)

Jacob and Esau were twin brothers who were as opposite as night and day. Esau was a skillful hunter while Jacob was more of a momma's boy. Esau, meaning hairy, was more loved by his father, Issac. Jacob, meaning deceiver, was favored by his mom, Rebekah. Right from the get go there was favoritism and jealousy stirring the pot—until one day, the pot boiled over. According to Jewish custom, Esau, the first born boy, was to receive twice the inheritance of his father's estate. But with one **impulsive decision**, the cards changed hands. Esau came in from hunting staaarring and made a quick decision to choose a bowl of lentil soup over his inheritance as the first born. What was he thinking?

We, too, can make the same impulsive decisions when we are hungry. We might not be craving food, but what about those new shoes? Impulsive choices are impatient decisions that range from purchasing something we can't afford to hanging out with the wrong crowd—choosing to wear something more risky or sharing your best friend's secret. Being impulsive is making quick decisions without thinking about the consequences. We want instant gratification, just like Esau, but end up trading the more important for the less important. Hasty choices can blind us from making good decisions. The next time you feel the impulse to make a quick choice, stop and think of the end results. Ask God for help. He promises to give you wisdom!

MORE TO READ: JAMES 1:5-6, 1 KINGS 3:9, PROVERBS 2:3-6

