



GENESIS

Grace from the Beginning

24/25 November 2018

Vol. 40, No. 46

You Win Some, You Lose All

Genesis 36

English Services

(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)

Prelude
Adoration and Thanksgiving
Confession
Worship through Fellowship
Scripture Reading
Intercession
Worship in the Word
Pastor Larry Pabiona
Worship through Giving
Response Song
Benediction

Filipino Service

(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda
Pagpupuri at Pasasalamat
Pagtatapat ng Kasalanan
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos
Pananalangin
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos
Pastor Dags Miguel
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay
Tugon na Awit
Bendisyon

See inset inside for the **Traditional Service (Sat., 6 p.m.)** program.



You Win Some, You Lose All

Today's Message (24/25 November 2018) /
Genesis 36

WE FAIL
AT WHAT
MATTERS
MOST IF WE
SUCCEED IN
THE WORLD'S
EYES, BUT
FAIL IN
GOD'S.

Genesis 36 records what became of Esau. It lists both his actual descendants as well as the aboriginal Edomites that they conquered and absorbed. The line of Esau is “cleaned up” before the account of Jacob commences in Genesis 37:2. This genealogy makes a strong contrast with Jacob's line. Secular greatness, in general, grows up far more rapidly than spiritual greatness. The progress of the world far out distances the progress of the righteous who are waiting for the promise.

Esau's progeny reminds us: we fail at what matters most if we succeed in the world's eyes, but fail in God's.

1. ESAU IN CANAAN: P_____ APART
FROM GOD WILL NOT ULTIMATELY BLESS
YOU (vv. 1-8).

- Both Abraham and Isaac wanted their sons to marry within the lineage of Terah (*Genesis 24:3-4, 28:2*), the godly line. By marrying two Canaanites, Esau exhibited contempt for his father's and grandfather's wishes. Esau's disregard marks him as cutting himself off from the chosen people. When Moses noted this detail, he intended it to be an indictment of Esau's character.
- Esau had grown enormously wealthy. However, he never grew spiritually (*Hebrews 12:16*). Why does God seemingly permit the wicked to prosper while evil befalls the believer? Two possible reasons:
 1. Because the righteous can be confirmed in true holiness only by trials and sufferings.
 2. Because God will not allow even the little good which the wicked may do, to go unrewarded; and therefore as He cannot reward it in the next world, He takes this means of allowing it to be rewarded in this present world. (*Matthew 5:45, 13:27-30; Romans 12:19; Acts 17:31; Romans 2:16*).

But if God blesses so abundantly those who are not believers, what is the magnitude of His blessings for those who are? If nonspiritual people experience

Traditional Service

(Saturday, 6:00 p.m.)

Prelude
Call To Worship
Worship Through Praise
Worship Through Fellowship
Scripture Reading
Preparatory Hymn
Pastoral Prayer
Worship in the Word
Pastor Larry Pabiona
Worship Through Giving
Response Song
Benediction



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such outpourings of common grace, how great must the special grace of the Christian be!

2. ESAU'S DESCENDANTS IN SEIR: P_____ THAT IS NOT GROUNDED IN GOD WILL NOT ULTIMATELY BENEFIT THEM (vv. 9-14).

- God had promised to make Esau into a nation, and this chapter details how that promise came true. The emergence of Edom as a kingdom fulfilled ancient predictions. But as history would show, the volume of their descendants did not benefit them.
- If these relatively minor predictions came true, how much more certain is the fulfilment of the central promises made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? How much more certain are all the promises of God true for the believer because of Jesus? 2 Corinthians 1:20 says, "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through Him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God."

3. THE CHIEFS AND KINGS FROM ESAU: P_____ WITHOUT THE BLESSING OF GOD WILL NOT ULTIMATELY BLESS ANYBODY (vv. 15-43).

- a. It destroyed the Horites (vv. 20-30).
 - The Horites became linked with descendants of Esau by conquest and intermarriage. They blended into the nation that became known as the Edomites. A picture of Esau as a powerful overlord is emerging. Not only did his own sons become chiefs of clans, but the clans in the land were subjugated to him. This is political might in the making.
- b. The Edomites ultimately destroyed themselves (vv. 15-19, 31-43; *Obadiah 1*).
 - When the Israelites passed through the wilderness on the way to the Promised Land in the time of Moses, the Edomites refused them passage through their land (*Numbers 20:21*). This would set a pattern of hostility against Israel that would merit God's wrath and destroy them eventually.

It is not what our parents have done or not done in the past, but our decisions as their children today that have the greatest effect on our future.

- In *Obadiah* the Edomites, who somehow aided and abetted the Babylonian conquest of Judea in 586 BC and profited from it, are denounced and their destruction foretold. In *Obadiah 1:3-4*, we see Edom unveiled. The pride of their heart was a declaration of independence, a soul that says it can live without God.

FINAL THOUGHTS

We fail at what matters most if we succeed in the world's eyes, but fail in God's. This was Esau (*Hebrews 12:16*). He won some, and lost everything.

Why will God grant heaven someday to someone who doesn't even want Him right now? The person who tries to live without God often gets what he wants—including the total absence of God in his eternal destiny. Don't let this ever be said of you (*2 Corinthians 13:5*) ■

THE GCF COUPLES WHO CARE MINISTRY

A strong marriage is the foundation of a strong family. There is a great threat, however, to the foundations of marriages today. We see the rise of separation and eventually, broken families. Couples may marry for the wrong reasons or they may come in the marriage with the wrong expectations. Our concept of marriage is mostly based from our observation of our culture or worse, from mass media. It is in this regard that the GCF Couples Who Care Ministry strives to cater to the needs of the couples.

When we follow God's principle for marriage, we will see the transformation of our relationship from bland to grand. God's word has laid down the principles and these are taught in the Biblical Portrait of Marriage (BPOM) seminar. This is a 12-session seminar conducted in two parts. The first part is a six-session series dealing with the basic principles of marriage. It deals with the foundation, roles, and responsibilities within the relationship.

The second part deals with the more practical aspects of marriage such as in-laws, money, intimacy, romance, communication, and loyalty. This

seminar is held once a year to help couples understand God's plan in their marriages.

The Couples Who Care also holds an annual retreat for the couples every November. "I Still Do" was the theme of this year's retreat, attended by 60 couples in Tagaytay last November 3 and 4. The retreat covered a variety of topics from the foundational to the relational.



The BPOM class and the couples' retreat are not just for married couples. Engaged and soon-to-be married couples are encouraged to attend and learn as well. It is always best to start the marriage path in the right track.

God desires that His children enjoy wonderful marriage relationships. It is GCF's desire to help equip the couples so that they may experience God's power in their marriages ■

Ministry Opportunities + Announcements



"BASTA'T KASAMA KITA..."

Naomi Women's Christmas Fellowship

Speaker: Pastor Noel Pabiona

December 1 (Sat), 10:00 a.m. here at GCF

All widows are invited.

Please text **0917 532 7713** to register.



GCF FAMILY CONFERENCE

December 2 (Sun), after the 10:30 a.m.

service, Auditorium B

All official members in the church roster are invited to attend.



HOPE BURNING BRIGHT

A Christmas Worship Musicales

December 15 (Sat), 5:00 p.m.

December 16 (Sun), 10:00 a.m. and 5:00

p.m. (*two services only*) | Auditorium B

Come with your family and friends!



2018 CHURCH LEADERS ELECTION

For leaders who will serve starting 2019

- Please continue to pray as we prepare to elect our new leaders on **December 8 and 9** (Sat. and Sun.).
- **Early Voting:** If you are not available on these dates, there is an option to vote early. Advanced voting will be held December 1-7. Ballots will be available at the Ministry Information Booth (after the weekend services), or with Ms. Grace Mosquera at the 3rd floor Admin Office on weekdays.

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God for all His blessings by Ramona Almirez, the Basilad family and the Messiah College, and for God's healing and provision for Tess Roseus. Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.

Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

Growth Group Express

How to Make Decisions You Won't

Regret (Lessons on David's Life)

Adults without GGs are invited!

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

Best Together in Christ

Group for Couples

Sundays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Rm. B508

Spark Growth Group

Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Seniors' Room

Life in Technicolor

support group for cancer patients and survivors

Every 3rd Sunday of the month

12:00-3:00 p.m., Seniors' Rm.

Overcomers

support group for those under any kind of addiction

Thursdays, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

*If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form of this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag, or submit it at the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at **0917 532 1921**.*

STEWARDSHIP REPORT / November 2018

	November Budget	Received, Nov. 1 to 18		Jan. to Nov. Budget	Received, Jan. 1 to Nov. 18
General Fund	7,618,215	5,791,025	General Fund	95,440,729	81,858,753
Missions Fund	927,000	909,551	Missions Fund	10,197,000	9,153,730

Only by grace

BY MARY GRACE MERCEDES



Joey, my husband, and I are married for 18 years now, blessed with a total of six children: Tj, Thonee, Nichole, Imee, Zyra, and Zeejay.

Back in 2003, in GCF Marikina Valley, we participated in the Couples Who Care Ministry. God has used the counsel of our mentors Ninong Pastor Arnold and Ninang Flordz Perona and the local church as a means of protecting and nourishing our marriage. At first we were skeptical about attending but God made a way for us. Praise the Lord!

The first seminar we attended was the Biblical Portrait of Marriage and the latest (just this November) is “I Still Do: A Covenant of Love, A Vow to Remember,” in CCT Tagaytay.

Our marriage had more downs than ups. On May 27, 2014, our daughter Zyra, who was only three years old, passed away. This was the most painful event in our family. If

we were not anchored in God’s words and promises, we may have torn apart.

We know that every trial and sorrow that we’ve experienced only points back to the awesome sustaining grace of our Father. We can honestly say that we love one another more today than we did yesterday. Praise God for the Couples Who Care Ministry. The learnings we had participating in that ministry enabled us to be still in the midst of storms, as Psalm 46:10 says.

God is merciful to us, first reconciling each of us to Himself and then to one another. Our testimony is that of a God who is rich in mercy, because of the great love that he has for us through Christ. By His grace we have been saved.

We recognize God’s sovereign wisdom in all the brokenness we experienced prior to our marriage, and even after. We also believe that those obstacles that kept us from getting together at first were actually a blessing, that God was likely protecting us from what might have been a miserable and hard marriage. The marriage contract we have is just a piece of paper before but now, it’s a covenant that Joey and I committed to the author and maker of marriage, our Father God.

God is so good! We will continue to attend and be involved in the couples’ ministry to learn more and inspire other couples, too. To God be the glory! ■

GCF PRAYER GATHERINGS *at the Chapel*

The GCF Hour of Prayer
Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.

Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

ON THE COVER: The Al-Khazneh monument in the ancient city of Petra, at night (*Wikimedia*). Petra may have been settled as early as three millennia before Christ, and it is identified by ancient Egyptians as one of the cities in the land of Seir—the same Seir where Esau and his descendants settled.



Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

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Tel. Nos. 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80, 635 0082 to 83 | Fax No. 632 1357

Mobile No. 0920 961 2964, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

E-mail: email@gcf.org.ph • Website: www.gcf.org.ph

How may we SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- I am a first-time guest.
- I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- I want to join a Growth Group.**
(Specify age group: _____)
(Specify group composition: _____)
- I want to start a Growth Group.
- I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: _____

Age: ____ Landline no.: _____

Mobile no.: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Year of membership: _____

Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): _____

*Today is **24/25 November 2018**, and I attended the 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. (Sat) (encircle the time).*

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.

God's Way to Heaven

THE GOSPEL

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God is holy and righteous: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory" (*Isaiah 6:3*). **He requires holiness of us as well:** "Be holy, for I am holy" (*1 Peter 1:16*).

THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

Man is sinful: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (*Romans 3:23*).
Sin demands a penalty: "For the wages of sin is death" (*Romans 6:23*).

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

Christ is the expression of God's love for us: "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (*Romans 5:8*). **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (*1 Peter 3:18*). **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them" (*2 Corinthians 5:18*).

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (*Romans 10:9*).

PRAYER: *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.*

Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.