



“Two Roads Diverged”

Genesis 36:1-43

We all face decisions that have a big and sometimes lasting impact on our lives. *Gen. 36:1-7*

- The life trajectories of Jacob and Esau are woven through the O. T. narrative.
- Jacob had a spiritual dimension - Esau demonstrated no spiritual interest/perspective.
- By earthly standards, Esau/Edom initially seemed more successful than Jacob/Israel.

The godless sometimes seem to prosper more than those who trust and live for God.

- Godless co-workers get promotions - Some students who have no time for God excel.
- Our choices are driven by perspective - Our perspective is shaped by values. *Ps. 73:1-28*

To consistently choose the right road, it's imperative to value the same things God values.

- Our life choices should embrace the eternal over the temporary. *2 Corinthians 4:16-18*
- Bottom Line: The only thing that matters is what God thinks. *Hebrews 12:16,17; 11:21*

In the end, if you chose the right road, God will reward you richly.

- Edom, along with all of its arrogance and prosperity, is long gone. *Obadiah 1:1-14*
- Israel is still a nation and the Lord Jesus Christ is still the King of Kings.

Further Study and Pondering:

1. What was one of your best decisions and one of your worst? What were the results?
2. Explain: Choices are driven by perspective - Our perspective is shaped by what we value.
3. Further study/When the godless prosper: (*Psalm 49:1-20; 73:1-28; Proverbs 11:28; Ecclesiastes 5:10-15; Matthew 5:43-48; Luke 12:16-21; 16:19-31; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Hebrews 11:24-26; James 5:1-8*)
4. List what you believe are five of our world's highest values. Ask others for their opinion.
5. List what you believe are five of God's highest values. Back up your selections with Scripture. Ask for help in making your list and in finding Scriptural support.
6. Evaluate your life in comparison to your two lists. Which values from these lists best represent how you define success and make choices? Commit yourself to God's values.
7. Pray: Commit yourself to embracing God's heart and allow Him to shape your values.

“Only God has the right to define success.”