

Obadiah

The Stories Behind The Story:

Genesis 25:19-34, 27, Numbers 20:14-21, 2 Chronicles 20:1-30

The Problems With The Edomites:

Obadiah 1, Ezekiel 25:12-14, 35:1-36:5, Lamentations 4:12-22

- Edom's response to their own **position** was **pride**
- Edom's response to **need** was **indifference**
- Edom's response to the **vulnerable** was **personal gain**
- Edom's response to **injustice** was **boasting**

How Not To Be An Edomite:

Proverbs 6:16-19, 16:5, 16:18-19; Psalms 10:4, Mark 7:20-23, Isaiah 14:12-15, 1 Corinthians 4:7, Matthew 5:3, 14:13-16; 25:31-46, James 1:27, 2:14-19, John 13:35, Isaiah 1:17

- ❶ Respond to our own **position** with **humility**
- ❷ Respond to **needs** with **compassion**
- ❸ Respond to the **vulnerable** with **generosity**
- ❹ Respond to **injustice** with **brokenness**

Two Things Worth Remembering:

- ❶ An attitude of **superiority** can become **deadly**
- ❷ Dad never forgets who **hurts** his **children**

Food for Thought

For the week of March 25, 2012

(Questions and Scriptures for further personal study)

1. One of the important ways to avoid being an Edomite is to develop humility instead of pride. Noted author C.S. Lewis wrote, "the essential vice, the utmost evil, is pride - pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind." Solomon had quite a bit to say about pride and arrogance as well. Jot down a few of his observations from the Proverbs listed below.

Proverbs 11:2

When pride comes, then comes disgrace,
but with humility comes wisdom. [NIV]

Proverbs 13:10

Pride only breeds quarrels,
but wisdom is found in those who take advice. [NIV]

Proverbs 16:5

The Lord detests all the proud of heart.
Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished. [NIV]

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goes before destruction,
a haughty spirit before a fall. [NIV]

Even though pride has so many negative consequences, it seems like the arrogant can still prosper. What light does Isaiah 2:11-12 shed on this dilemma?

Isaiah 2:11-12

The eyes of the arrogant man will be humbled
and the pride of men brought low;
the Lord alone will be exalted in that day.
[12] The Lord Almighty has a day in store
for all the proud and lofty,
for all that is exalted
(and they will be humbled), [NIV]

2. Another way to avoid being an Edomite is to respond to the vulnerable with generosity. Our generosity is usually directly related to the perspective we have of our possessions. How do the decisions and statements of the man in the parable in Luke 12:13-21 reveal what his perspective is on his possessions?

Luke 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

[14] Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" [15] Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

[16] And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. [17] He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

[18] "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. [19] And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." '

[20] "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

[21] "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."
[NIV]

What are one or two decisions this man could have made that would have demonstrated a wiser outlook?

Are there any decisions you could make with your possessions that would demonstrate a wiser outlook?

3. One of the keys to building generosity into our life is learning to be content with what we have. As most of us know, this kind of contentment can be a challenge to develop. What insight and hope do the following passages give us in moving toward this kind of contentment?

Proverbs 30:7-9

"Two things I ask of you, O Lord;
do not refuse me before I die:

[8] Keep falsehood and lies far from me;
give me neither poverty nor riches,
but give me only my daily bread.

[9] Otherwise, I may have too much
and disown you and say, 'Who is the Lord?'

Or I may become poor and steal,
and so dishonor the name of my God. [NIV]

Philippians 4:10-13

I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. [11] I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. [12] I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. [13] I can do everything through him who gives me strength. [NIV]

How can the principles in Matthew 6:25-27, 33-34 help us grow in our ability to be content with either much or little?

Matthew 6:25-27

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? [26] Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? [27] Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? [NIV]

Matthew 6:33-34

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. [34] Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. [NIV]