

Scriptures July 12, 2026

Modern Testimony

based on Psalm 119

One: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

All: Light our way, Loving God, so we may travel in your way.

One: I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances.

All: Keep us faithful to the promises we have made and forgive us when we fall short.

One: I am severely afflicted; give me life, O Lord, according to your word.

All: Hear us and heal us, God, for we need you today.

One: Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your ordinances.

All: We seek your acceptance and your wisdom, Holy One.

One: I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.

All: Even in times of trouble, we turn to you because you are faithful, God.

One: The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.

All: With the support of this faith community, we do not walk alone no matter what.

One: Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.

All: We are thankful for our ancestors in the faith who lived their faith.

One: I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

All: Give us the strength to remain faithful for you are faithful, Loving God.

~silence is kept~

Ancient Testimony Genesis 25:19-34 NRSV

The Birth and Youth of Esau and Jacob

¹⁹ These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, ²⁰ and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. ²¹ Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. ²² The children struggled together within her; and she said, 'If it is to be this way, why do I live?'^[a] So she went to inquire of the Lord. ²³ And the Lord said to her,

'Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;
one shall be stronger than the other,
the elder shall serve the younger.'

²⁴ When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. ²⁵ The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. ²⁶ Afterwards his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob.^[b] Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

²⁷ When the boys grew up, Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. ²⁸ Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Esau Sells His Birthright

²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. ³⁰ Esau said to Jacob, 'Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!' (Therefore he was called Edom.^[c]) ³¹ Jacob said, 'First sell me your birthright.' ³² Esau said, 'I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?' ³³ Jacob said, 'Swear to me first.'^[d] So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Ancient Testimony Matthew 13:1-9 NRSV

The Parable of the Sower

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ Let anyone with ears^[a] listen!'

Matthew 13:18-23 NRSV

The Parable of the Sower Explained

¹⁸ 'Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.^[a] ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'