

"Seize Your Blessing"

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Genesis 25:29-34 NIV

Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. [30] He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!" (That is why he was also called Edom.)

[31] Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright."

[32] "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?"

[33] But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob.

[34] Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left.

So Esau despised his birthright.

1. Esau Gave Up His Birthright

A birthright was a very important thing in those days. It meant that as the firstborn son, they inherited twice as much of the inheritance as any other son. Esau was so foolish that he sold his right as a firstborn son to his little brother. Esau gave up his inheritance for a BOWL OF SOUP!!! Esau despised (hated) his birthright, because he let his belly rule him. He gave up something precious for something that would only last for a couple hours. Most of you guys eat every few hours, or more. You eat, and in a little while you are hungry again, right??? That bowl of soup would satisfy him for just a little while, and then he would be hungry again. He gave away his birthright for something as stupid as a bowl of soup.

Hebrews 12:15-17 NIV

See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. [16] See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. [17] Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. He could bring about no change of mind, though he sought the blessing with tears.

2. Esau Lost His Blessing

When a father would give the inheritance to his oldest son, he would also **speak** a blessing over him. Esau did not realize the extreme importance of that spoken blessing. He forsook his birthright for a bowl of soup, and then he lost his blessing too. Maybe he didn't realize that he would lose his spiritual blessing, he could have thought it was just material things he would lose. Esau lost everything, his inheritance, his father's blessing, even God's blessing on his life. Verse 16 called Esau "godless" because he didn't understand the importance of the blessing. He despised his own birthright and lost his blessing. Esau let the blessing of God slip through his fingers... and it started with a bowl of soup.

3. Hang On To Your Blessing

Eating a bowl of soup may not seem like a sin... but it can be. For Esau it was a sin to trade in something so much better for a stupid bowl of soup. The lesson we can learn from this that we shouldn't give up God's blessing on our lives for ANYTHING. No matter how much you think you want something, it is NOT worth losing God's spiritual (and material) blessing on your life.

Think about it teenagers. God has an awesome plan for you, but you have a choice either to reject it, or hang on to it at all costs. God desires to bless you in every way, to provide for your physical needs, and even more importantly to pour out His spiritual blessings on your life. God desires for you to stand firm in His ways, to enjoy living a life of joy and freedom. Yet you and I have the choice to hold onto God's blessing or reject it.

Many teenagers just like you reject God's blessing on their life, by choosing the wrong things instead. Esau chose soup, but for us today it's something different. Maybe sex will try to trick you into giving up your blessing. It feels so good, but just like soup it only lasts a little while, and when the excitement is gone you are left empty, and longing for more. Would you give up your blessing for something that doesn't last, and in the end could destroy you???

Illustration: Share about friend's shipwrecked faith.

Maybe for you it's something that seems more innocent. *Picture this:* All you want is for people to accept you, and to think you're awesome. Somebody at

school asks you to come to a party with them this weekend. You know there will be drinking there, maybe even drugs, and the crowd that will be there sure are "cool", but they don't live for God. What will you do??? Will you choose to try to be "cool" and get into a situation that may bring you down??? Or will you hang on to God's blessing, even if your friends think you're a jerk because you say no.

No matter what sin or distraction may try to bring you down, it is NOT worth giving up the blessing God has for your life. **Hang on to your blessing!!!**

A boyfriend or a girlfriend is something that you may want SO bad, but a relationship with the wrong person is simply NOT worth the pain and heartache it brings. God has someone wonderful out there for you, but you have to wait for His timing. If you try to rush things and go out with the wrong person just because you like them, or they think you're cute, beware... NO relationship is worth missing the blessing and the awesome plan that God has for you. **HANG ON TO YOUR BLESSING!!!** Wait for God's perfect plan. Don't let sin or compromise keep you from God's best.

Altar Call:

If you want the blessing of God in your life then you have a choice to make. You have to choose to hang on to God's blessing. (Even if you can't see God's blessing and awesome plan for you yet, He has one.

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

I'm challenging you, "Don't MISS God's best for you!!!" Don't give up your blessing. Lets commit together to hang on to God's blessing for us.

Prayer: God, I know you've got an awesome plan for me. I want the blessing you have for me at all costs. I lay down anything that would keep me from you and your blessing. Show me when anything would try to steal my blessing from me. Give me the strength to do the right thing. Bless me Lord!!! Amen.

