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STORIES OF
FAITHFULNESS

Lentil Soup

GENESIS 25:21-34

Genesis 25:21-23

“And Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren. And the LORD granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived. The children struggled together within her, and she said, ‘If it is thus, why is this happening to me?’ So she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her, ‘Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older ...’”

Genesis 25:23-27

“shall serve the younger.’ When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau. Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding Esau’s heel, so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a ...”

Genesis 25:27-32

“quiet man, dwelling in tents. Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob. Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted. And Esau said to Jacob, ‘Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!’ (Therefore his name was called Edom.) Jacob said, ‘Sell me your birthright now.’ Esau said, ‘I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to ...’”

Genesis 25:32-34

“me?” Jacob said, ‘Swear to me now.’ So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.” (ESV)

Birthright

A double portion of the inheritance given, usually to the first-born, which included the honor of being the family leader and carrying on the family name.

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Esau Passionately Wanted
What He Didn't Have

“Let me eat some of that red stew,
for I am exhausted” (30)

Genesis 25:32

“I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?” (ESV)

The Problem

Esau saw something he desperately wanted.

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Esau Rationalizes His Need To Possess It

“I am about to die; of what use is a
birthright to me?” (32)

Exhausted (‘āyēp)

- **Tired, exhausted, faint**
 - “Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted” (Gen 25:29, ESV)

Genesis 25:33

“Swear to me now.’ So he swore to him and sold his birthright.” (ESV)

Observation

We all have our “Jacobs” who dangle things in front of our eyes and tempt us to do what we shouldn’t do.

1 Peter 5:8

“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

(ESV)

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Esau Trades the Precious for
the Common

“Then Jacob gave Esau bread
and lentil stew” (34)

Bad Trades

- They trade the incorruptible for the corruptible (Rom 1:22-23)
- They trade the imperishable wreath for the perishable (1 Cor 9:25)
- They trade their birthright for a bowl of soup (Gen 25:34)

Luke 9:25

“For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?”

(ESV)

Warning

- Make sure you don't fall into mistakes of Esau.
- Realize what is most important in life.
 - Make a list of the non-negotiable. Things that you will never give up: God, marriage, family, children, church, your good name, etc.



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Esau Doesn't Realize the Red Stew is Lentil

“Esau despised his birthright” (34)

Lentil

- A leguminous plant with small edible seeds.

Genesis 25:34

“He ate and drank and rose and went his way.”

(ESV)

Hebrews 12:15-17

“See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no ‘root of bitterness’ springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled ... like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.” (ESV)



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Lentil Soup

**Are you seeking the worldly shadow, or
the substance that is available in Christ?**

Next Steps

- I am thankful for the birthright I am offered through Jesus Christ.
- I won't trade the precious for the common.
- I will pause and pray rather than justify short-term satisfaction before making important decisions.
- I will trust God's timing and plans for_____.