**The Price For Stew**

Prepared by Nathan Morrison for Sunday December 2nd, 2018

Text: Heb. 12:14-17

Intro

1. The Book of Hebrews is a plea for Christians to remain faithful to Christ.
   1. *Heb. 2:1-3:* We are told to not drift away *(So it is possible to drift away!).*
   2. *Heb. 10:26-31:* A Christian who turns away is guilty of trampling under foot the Son of God, disregards His blood that cleanses us, and insults the Spirit of Grace.
   3. *Heb. 10:38-39:* Christians are not to be those that turn back!
   4. *Heb. 12:1-3:* Jesus suffered the cross so that we may have victory through Him, and that from His example; we might not grow weary and lose heart.
2. There is the danger that one may “fall short of God’s grace,” or fall away.
   1. The Corinthians were admonished to take heed lest they fall (*I Cor. 10:12*).
   2. Some of the Galatians had fallen from grace (*Gal. 5:4*).
3. The case of Esau is used as a warning to Christians:
   1. Heb. 12:14-17: Esau is used here as a warning to Christians to not “Sell out” their inheritance!
   2. *Gen. 25:29-34*: Remember that Esau was the oldest and entitled to the Birthright.
   3. He was a hunter and came in from the field famished. Jacob had a pot of lentil stew cooking.
   4. Esau asked for a bowl of it. Jacob set the price for lentil stew: $Birthright!
   5. Esau accepted saying, “I’m dying so what use is my birthright?”
4. Esau sold his birthright (Inheritance) for a bowl of stew – Many Christians accept that price!

# Heirs of Isaac

1. Esau and Jacob were Abraham’s grandsons.
   1. Heirs of their father Isaac.
   2. Esau was the older of twins *(Gen. 25:20-26).*
2. The birthright (or, inheritance) meant:
   1. One would become head of the family at the father’s death.
   2. One would receive a double portion of his father’s possessions.
   3. One would take the lead in worship at the father’s death.
3. This birthright could be:
   1. Traded, or sold, as Esau did (Gen. 25:29-34).
   2. Jacob even threw in “bread” – many times we get more than we asked for too!
4. Esau is called “godless*.” He lived only for the present! (Did not trust in God)*
   1. Gen. 25:34: It is said that Esau despised his birthright.
      1. It was a lasting inheritance, one to be passed down to his descendants.
      2. But he sold it for something temporal, passing (even though he thought he needed it – food!)
   2. Heb. 12:16: Saints are warned to not let there arise among them, immoral and godless men like Esau.
5. Esau sold his inheritance for a single meal and serves as warning for us today!

# Heirs of God

1. Christians have the honor of being called sons (children) of God.
   1. I Jn. 3:1-2: What love the Father has bestowed upon us that we should be called sons of God! We have the love of our Creator as His children.
2. Christians are the heirs of God.
   1. Rom. 8:14-17: We are fellow heirs with Christ.
      1. Think about that: Where is Christ now? In Heaven *(Col. 3:1-3: Seated at the right hand of God!).*
   2. We can cry out to God as our Father, as Christ did in the Garden of Gethsemane, “Abba! Father!” (*Mk. 14:36*)
      1. “Abba” in the Greek (*G5*) means a personal name for father, like we would call our physical father, “Papa,” or “Daddy.”
   3. If heirs, then that means there is an inheritance!
3. Christians have an Inheritance!
   1. I Pet. 1:3-5: Our inheritance is eternal – will never fade away (but can be traded or sold).
   2. Our inheritance is reserved in heaven.
4. Christians have the promise that all things will work together for their good!
   1. Rom. 8:28: Promise is for those who love Him. *(Jn. 14:15: To love Him is to obey Him.)*
5. Christians have the promise of eternal life!
   1. *I Jn. 2:25*: “This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.”
   2. Tit. 1:1-2: God has promised it and cannot lie.
6. Christians are in same position as Esau was, to inherit all the blessings of their Father!
7. The Price For Stew
8. With so much to inherit in the physical, Esau asked, “What is the price for stew?” *(Gen. 25:32; Heb. 12:16)*
9. With so much to inherit for eternity, why do Christians ask, “What is the price for stew?”
   1. II Tim. 4:10: Once a “fellow worker” with Paul, Demas sold his inheritance for the pleasures of the world! *(Mt. 13:20-23: The rocky & thorny soil saints)*
10. Some may sell/trade their spiritual birthright for:
    1. **“Pleasures of this life”** – Lk. 8:14: Some allow “riches and pleasures of this life” to choke out the word of God in their lives!
    2. **“The love of money”** – I Tim. 6:10-11: The love of money has caused some to sell their inheritance for the pursuit of money and material wealth!
    3. **“Friendship with the world”** – Js. 4:4: Those who compromise with the world make themselves enemies of God *(Can’t offend friends or family!).*
    4. **“The lusts of the flesh”** – I Jn. 2:15-17: Some may exchange the peace, hope, and purpose of the Christian life for the “lusts of the flesh.”
11. Christians who give up their eternal rewards for the temporal, passing pleasures of life, have sold their inheritance for “stew!”

## Conclusion

1. Esau sold his inheritance for a single meal, something that would only last the moment. (Heb. 12:16)
2. He later regretted it – But it was too late. *Once Isaac had spoken there was no change!*
3. Heb. 12:17: He regretted it so much he desired and sought after it with much tears.
4. But it was too late for repentance. The judgment was set.
5. Christians who sell their inheritance and regret it, *through repentance can get it back!*
6. Js. 5:19-20: One who has turned away can turn back! *(Lk. 15: The Prodigal)*
7. I Jn. 1:9: The one who confesses sin and asks for forgiveness will be forgiven!
8. However, ***IF*** a Christian is found on Judgment Day having sold his eternal inheritance – there will be no second chance. *Once God has spoken there will be no change!*
9. II Cor. 5:10: All must appear to give account for deeds done in the body. Whether good or bad!
10. Nothing will be hidden! *(Rev. 20:15: Must be written in Book of Life!)*
11. The price for “stew” man might be willing to pay is the inheritance of heaven…
    1. Which means, The Price For Stew (worldly pleasures) is: $Hell! *(Mt. 25:41, 46)*
12. Esau sold his inheritance for a bowl of lentil stew! *(Gen. 25:34)*
13. Jesus asked, “What will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (*Mt. 16:26*)
14. What is your “stew?” What are you willing to give up your inheritance for? ***(Not worth the price!)***
15. If not a Christian, Repent of your sins and be baptized, and begin your life with Him.
16. If a Christian in sin, ask yourself, “Is it worth my soul?” Repent & be renewed.
17. Let your requests be made known by coming forward ***NOW*** while we stand and sing.