

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Genesis 25:24-36.**
- B. Esau was the oldest brother of twins. He was a hairy man and was by trade a hunter.
- C. He became hot, tired, and hungry one day and then proceeded to make the biggest mistake of his life.
- D. Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of pottage. In doing so he joined "The Now Generation."

## I. CONTROLLING PHYSICAL NEEDS.

- A. The "Now Generation" is a term used to mean those individuals who forget the past, unable to see the future, and live only for the present.
- B. Esau allowed his own physical needs to get in the way of spiritual blessings. As a people in this country we are doing the same things.
- C. We must have many days of recreation, have fun, gorge our stomachs, and yield to all kinds of vices and habits.
- D. For the *pleasure of the moment* people will do all kinds of things sexually, immorally, and physically; all the while not realizing the mistakes they are making.
- E. It's easy to be part of the "Now Generation." We live in a hurried up, fast paced, instant, take to the next level, world. We can get so many things done so very quickly, we often forget that it may not need to be this way.
- F. We must not make the same mistake of Esau and allow our physical needs to control us. Notice the following passages:
  - 1. Stomachs are good servants, but bad masters--learn to deny self (Lk. 9:23).  
*And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.*
  - 2. Controlling one's physical drives and desires is important (1Cor. 6:19).  
*Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?*
  - 3. All things lawful, but not profitable (1Cor. 6:12-13).  
*All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything. 13 Food is for the stomach, and the stomach is for food; but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord; and the Lord is for the body.*
  - 4. Present your bodies a holy sacrifice (Rom. 12:1-2).  
*I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

## II. GET A BETTER VIEW OF THE FUTURE.

- A. The "Now Generation" has a poor concept of the future. To them tomorrow never comes, and today is all that matters.
- B. Many times we can't see past today, as to make the necessary changes for a better tomorrow.
- C. "Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day; teach a man to fish and he will eat for a lifetime."
- D. When we focus only on our temporal needs we ignore the eternal spiritual ones (2Cor. 4:18).
- E. When a person has goals for his life, looks deeply into the future, he can live today much easier (Esau didn't do this, see Gen. 25:32). A person can handle better the disappointments a day brings when he looks ahead to the goals before him.
- F. Hebrews was written to Xians ready to quit the Xian faith. Listen to these words of exhortation:
  - 1. Encourage one another (Heb. 3:13).  
*But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*

2. Draw near with confidence to the throne of Jesus (Heb. 4:16).  
Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.
3. Be not sluggish (Heb. 6:9-12).  
But, beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation, though we are speaking in this way. **10** For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. **11** And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, **12** that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
4. Let draw near w/ a sincere heart (Heb. 10:22).  
...let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.
5. Fixing our eyes on Jesus (Heb. 12:2).  
...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

### III. THE PRICE VERSUS THE COST.

- A. The price Esau paid was trivial, so small, and insignificant, as compared to what it cost him. He traded a double portion of his father's inheritance for one bowl of food!
- B. Esau made a bad trade because he was of the "Now Generation." Children will make bad trades. They will give up savings bonds, full piggy banks, family antiques for things like bubble gum, baseball cards, and candy.
- C. Adults do the same thing only a higher scale. We trade happiness, home, and eternal life for silly things like power, drugs, and popularity.
- D. Let us remember the price we pay now may be small, but what it will cost us can be very great.

### CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. What is your price? Will you sell the past (forgetting lessons to be learned) and the future (ignoring the goals and rewards to be obtained) for the illusive *now*?
- B. What is your price? What sins will you not give up that may cost you eternal life in heaven?
- C. Learn from the past, live for the future, and make wise choices today as to not be a part of the "Now Generation."
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, for erring Xians.