

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. When Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of pottage he made a big mistake and 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 go hunting, have many days of recreation, drink booze, 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 world. We can get so many things so very quickly.
- F. We must not make the same mistake of Esau and allow our physical needs to control us. Stomachs are good servants, bad masters.
 1. Learn to deny self (Lk. 9:23).
 2. Control one's physical drives and desires (1Cor. 6:19).
 3. All things lawful, but not profitable (1Cor. 6:12-13).
 4. Present your bodies a holy sacrifice (Rom. 12:1-2).

II. GET A BETTER VIEW OF THE FUTURE.

- A. "The Now Generation" has very little concept of the future. To them tomorrow never comes, today is all that matters.
- B. Too many times we can't see past today far enough to tomorrow, as to make the necessary changes today for a better tomorrow.
- C. When I was a child I wanted things done for me, but when I learned to do things I didn't need to always depend on others. "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 on our temporal needs only then we ignore the spiritual needs that are eternal (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).
 2. Draw near with confidence to the throne of Jesus (Heb. 4:16).
 3. Be not sluggish (Heb. 6:9-12).
 4. Let us draw near with a sincere heart (Heb. 10:22).
 5. Fixing our eyes on Jesus (Heb. 12:2).

III. THE PRICE VERSUS THE COST.

- A. Esau's price 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 (forget lessons to be learned) and the future (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; erring Xians.