

Never Sell Your Birthright

Godly Inheritance

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Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. 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. Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. Even though he sought the blessing with tears, he could not change what he had done.

Hebrews 12:14–17

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Hebrews 12:14-17 (NIV)

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Sermon Series Thesis:

The Inheritance of God should drive the Christian to live building a legacy that imitates our creator.

Sermon Thesis:

The central idea for this sermon...

Objectives:

- I. Pursue Peace and be Holy.
- II. Don't fall short of God's Grace.
- III. Avoid Esau's error.

Introduction:

In our text we have a caution to those who are disobedient. A warning exists to any who would make poor choices that affect many. Esau is a case in point. For a moment he thought he was dying and he despised his birthright which would affect his family for generations. Let us not make the same mistake.

Pursue peace and holiness as the Hebrew writer encourages. Be careful not to fall short of God's grace. Understand the inheritance that awaits the faithful steadfast people of God.

Be sure to never sell your birthright.

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Sermon Outline:

I. Pursue Peace and be Holy.

- A. The pursuit of peace and holiness builds the character necessary for God's people.

Romans 14:19 (NIV)

¹⁹ Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

Psalms 34:14 (NIV)

¹⁴ Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

- B. This righteous pursuit teaches us how to avoid Esau's error.

Romans 6:19 (NIV)

¹⁹ I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness.

- C. This pursuit leads to Holiness which is necessary to see God.

Hebrews 12:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness.

So we are warned and encouraged to pursue peace and holiness. This is a discipline which will help us to see God and keep us from selling our birthright.

II. Don't fall short of God's Grace.

- A. The Hebrew writers thinking can be seen in the verses preceding our text.

Hebrews 12:12-13 (NIV)

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Hebrews 12:14-17 (NIV)

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¹² Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. ¹³ “Make level paths for your feet,” so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

- B. The discipline of peace and holiness strengthens and heals.
- C. To fall short of God’s grace is to allow a bitter root to take hold.
- D. If we will not discipline ourselves in this noble pursuit we will not have what we need in times of trial.

Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)

¹⁶ Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

- E. The confidence comes from our pursuit as He has taught us in His Word.
- F. If we don’t have what we need in times of trial we will be prone to duplicate Esau’s error.

In a moment we might make decisions which can affect us dramatically.

III. Avoid Esau’s error.

- A. What Esau threw away for one meal was the ancestorship of the Messiah and the prerogatives which went with this. Moreover, this was one of those rights which, once lost, could not be recovered no matter what the effort put forth.
- B. Esau’s error can affect many. It might affect the inheritance we leave. A cycle of sin that can spin through generations as our legacy.

Deuteronomy 29:18 (NIV)

¹⁸ Make sure there is no man or woman, clan or tribe among you today whose heart turns away from the LORD our God to go and worship the gods of those nations; make sure there is no root among you that produces such bitter poison.

- C. This teaching is why...
 1. It’s why Elders look out for the flock.
 2. It’s why Fathers must protect their households.

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3. It's why Christians must look to the needs of others.

D. In a weak moment a wrong decision can be made that carries heavy consequences.

Genesis 25:29–34 (NIV)

²⁹ 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.

E. We need to be able to understand the spiritual nature of the decisions we make.

F. The right pursuits in our life can increase the odds of righteous decision making.

1 Timothy 4:7 (NIV)

⁷ Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.

1 Timothy 6:20 (NIV)

²⁰ Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge,

2 Timothy 2:16 (NIV)

¹⁶ Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.

It might feel like we are famished and going to die in this world sometimes but never sell your birthright.

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Conclusion:

This birthright is not the one we entered into when we were first born into the world. That is a birthright of sin and death. It is the born again birthright to which we speak of today. You can obtain that birthright by pursuing the grace of God extended to you today.

God's Righteousness At Christ Expense is available for you to take hold of or will you despise the offer?

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Invitation:

Romans 10:17 (NIV)

¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Luke 13:3 (NIV)

³ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.

Romans 10:9–10 (NIV)

⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Acts 2:38 (NIV)

³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Revelation 2:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.