

SELF-PITY IS NOT REPENTANCE

Hebrew 12:17: For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

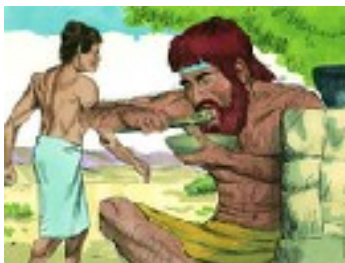
INTRODUCTION

This is written of Esau who sold his birthright for a mess of pottage, then wanted the blessing anyway! He was so full of self-pity that he even sought the blessing with tears. But the Scripture says he did not come to repentance for what he had done!



I. Esau was a profane man

A. He didn't value spiritual blessings



1. He gave up the lasting benefits of his birthright for immediate satisfaction of his physical desires.

a. Worldly appetites quench the desire for spiritual things.

b. He realized – too late – what he had done.

II. He found no place of repentance

A. He would like to have had his father, Isaac, repent of giving the blessing to Jacob!

B. He would not admit he had done wrong in bartering away his inheritance.

1. No place in Scripture tells that he repented.

2. He is merely filled with self-pity at what he had lost.



Application: There will be weeping and wailing in that final day. Those tears will be too late and for the wrong reason. They will be tears — not for doing wrong — but for suffering the consequences!

III. He remained profane

- A. He had fallen short of the grace of God.
- B. He despised holy things.
- C. He was not pursuing holiness now — just seeking the blessing.
- D. He did not come, in repentance, as the Prodigal Son did.
- E. He symbolizes:

- **lack of faith**
- **bitterness of mind**
- **gross sins**
- **indifference to the things of God**

It is possible to
miss an
inheritance!

- F. It is possible to miss an inheritance!

IV. **“Repentance” is an unpopular sermon subject!**

- A. Too many preachers neglect this for more popular subjects: faith – prophecy – prayer – getting along with folks – love — sermons against drugs, alcohol, misuses of sex, war, prejudice — even materialism – and so forth.
 - 1. These sermons are needed, but there is also the need to talk about repentance!

V. **In the Tradition of John the Baptist**

- A. “Repent – the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 3:1-2:

¹ *In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,*

² *And saying, Repent ye: for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.*

- B. He called some of the leading sects a “*generation of vipers*”.

- 1. He called for repentance — for the renunciation of their sins.

Matthew 3:7: But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

2. Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

Matthew 3:8: Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

VI. Repentance is Needed Today

A. First: we need repentance to be right with God.

Illustration: Charles Finney was saved but had not experienced great depth of repentance at first. Then, one momentous day, he reports: *“It was as if I met the Lord, face to face. He said nothing but looked at me in such a manner as to break me right down at His feet . . . He stood before me, and I wept like a child and made such confessions as I could with my choked utterance.”*

(It was after this repentance, without any thought of great blessing immediately in store for him, that the Holy Spirit descended upon him. He tried to write of this experience, as follows):

*“I could feel the impression, like a wave of electricity going through and through me. Indeed, it seemed to come in waves of **liquid love**, for I could express it in no other way. It seemed like the very breath of God. I can recollect distinctly that it seemed to fan me like immense wings.”*

1. Finney was not seeking the blessing with tears, as Esau did.

2. Finney was just weeping repentance tears!

B. Second: We need repentance to be a blessing to others.

1. After this experience of repentance and of the infilling of the Holy Spirit, Finney preached with power!

a. His evangelistic meetings turned into all-night prayer meetings where repentance was evidenced, and God’s forgiveness was found.



VII. When you pray the Lord’s Prayer, don’t hurry past the words **“Forgive us our debts”**.

A. List what you are seeking forgiveness for:

1. Impatience with your wife this morning.
2. Neglect of studying God's Word.
3. Cheating — whether you get caught or not.
4. Every inadequacy — unHoliness — or lack of love.



VIII. We are concerned about our national crisis.

A. Widespread moral collapse.

1. Repentance is needed – begin right here, right now.
 - a. Let's spread our repentance before God.
 - b. Let's spread our helplessness before Him.
 - c. Let's wait, confidently, in His Presence, for renewal and power!

CONCLUSION:

I. Everyone of us shall give an account of himself to God.

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Romans 14:12: So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Romans 3:23: For all have sinned, and come short of the Glory of God;

Romans 6:23: For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is Eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Acts 16:31: And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Acts 16:21: And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans.

Remember, therefore, how thou hast received and heard — and hold fast and repent.

Revelation 3:3: Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

***It's me, it's me, it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.
Not my brother – not my sister – but it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of Prayer.***

Hebrew 12:17: For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

II. Esau was the first-born and should have become heir. He was privileged.

We are privileged to be born in a “Bible land”, and not in some dark country where Christ is not preached.

- A. Esau despised and did not value his privilege. He sold his birthright for a parcel of meat — for some food. The temporal took the place of the spiritual.

Matthew 6:33: But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His Righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

**an
opportunity
not accepted
is lost.**

- B. Esau sold his precious birthright.

An opportunity not accepted is lost.

Moses looked at things differently. He chose to suffer rather than enjoy temporary pleasures.

Hebrews 11:24-25:

²⁴ By Faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

²⁵ Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;



- C. Esau sought the blessing in tears, but to no avail.

We are privileged to be born in America where there are churches on every corner,

and we have the opportunity to hear the Word on radio, TV, and read it in newspapers, books, magazines.

III. We are Privileged That We Can Have Anointed Church Services

We have the opportunity to work among sinners. This is our great day of privilege, so let's not fail.

IV. Rich men have stewards.

A. Stewards Must Be Responsible

God is rich and He has stewards to carry out His work. Stewards must give account of responsibility. We are to be His stewards, but you are not behaving like a steward if you are not carrying out your duty.



Luke 16:1-2:

¹ And He [Jesus] said also unto His disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods.

² And He called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.

B. Fear of losing stewardship.

Luke 16:3: Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed.

C. Resolve To Do What Needs to Be Done

He said, "*I am resolved what to do*", and he called every one of his lord's debtors.

Luke 16:4: I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.

D. He asked each debtor "How much owest thou my Lord?"

Luke 16:5: So he called every one of his lord's debtors unto him, and said unto the first, How much owest thou unto my lord?

We owe Him for life, food, clothing, fresh air, rain, sunshine, health, wealth — for everything. But we especially owe Him for His Son Who purchased our healing and our salvation.

E. He collected from Lord's debtors:

Luke 16:6-7:

⁶ And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty.

⁷ Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? And he said, An hundred measures of wheat. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and write fourscore.

V. Collect for the Lord.

The fields are white unto harvest — there is sin, sickness, trouble, heartaches, broken homes. Let's collect the debts for the Lord. We owe our lives and our souls to Him.

VI. Faithful in least is faithful in much.

Luke 16:10: He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

He that is unjust in the least of things will be unjust in much. I am resolved during the coming year to be faithful.

Illustration:

Three Indians became converts and quit drinking. Someone had placed a bottle of alcohol on their path. One stepped over it, another went around it, but the third one broke it with a tomahawk and said, "You conquered me; now I conquer you!"

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