

Summer at Highlands

Pastor Craig Barber | August 1, 2021 | Worst Trade Ever

Big Idea

Would you trade your birthright for a bowl of red soup (or “red stuff”)? On the first pass, I think we all would say that we would never do that, but the reality is that we trade what matters most for what is right in front of us all the time. We give in to our appetites and they rule us but, Jesus offers satisfaction that can fulfill us for the rest of our lives.

Let's Talk

1. Appetites, am I right?!? Esau gave up a double portion inheritance, his spot as the head of the family, and a blessing from God all because he was hungry. At that moment, there was nothing he could see outside of his own hunger. Are there times in your life where you would have been willing to give up almost anything for what you wanted at the moment? Have you ever let your appetite drive your actions?

Esau said, “I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?” *Genesis 25:32*

2. Exaggeration and egos. Pressure and hunger (or desire) are not a great combination for making smart choices. Jacob's offer for food came with a steep price (Gen 25:33, “Swear to me ...”) and a long-lasting consequence. You might not be selling your birthright today, but there are certain things in our lives that we are probably exaggerating and need to consider the consequences before we make a deadly trade. Esau despised his birthright after this event. How would you feel if you made this kind of trade? What would you do next?

Reflect & Respond

Jesus offers us true satisfaction for our souls. He can satisfy us and keep us from falling into a terrible trade. Consider these words of Jesus (below) and take heart. We don't have to keep living in terrible trades and with painful experiences. Even if you feel like you are down and out, Jesus is still here with an offer to give you rest!

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” *Matthew 11:28 – 29*