

Royal Birthright or a Bowl of Stew?

Genesis 25:29-34 NIV “Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. He said to Jacob, “Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I’m famished!” (That is why he was also called Edom.) Jacob replied, “First sell me your birthright.” “Look, I am about to die,” Esau said. “What good is the birthright to me?” But Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob. 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.”

Impetuous, spontaneous, impulsive, abrupt, reckless, hasty, hurried, rash. Thoughtful, careful, circumspect, alert, careful, conservative, considerate, heedful. Careless, heedless, incautious, unguarded, unmindful, unsafe, unwary. Attentive, awake, observant, open-eyed, vigilant, watchful, wide-awake. Dramatized, exaggerated, hyperbole, embellished, magnified, stretched. Factual, truthful, exact, literal, objective, accurate. Untruth, inaccurate, false, fabrication, lie. Truth, Word of God, Word from the Father’s mouth, the report of the Lord, prophecy that you have received, tested and know to be the voice of the Lord for your life. What pushes you around? What are you listening to and being led by? Are you a disciple of Christ? If so, you should act like one who is disciplined enough to not be all of / any of the list of negative behaviors listed above.

Esau despised his birthright. He disesteemed his birthright. He likely did this, not as an overt, intentional act, but rather as a result of not being thoughtful and circumspect. He most likely just allowed his soul to be “out-front” and consequently he forgot who he was and the importance of his destiny.

Esau said, “I am about to die.” Was that true? Was getting a bowl of stew or not from his brother a matter of life or death. Would Esau have died without that bowl of stew? Certainly not! He was rash, impulsive and reckless. He became the proverbial drama king, he exaggerated his condition and as a result he “despised his birthright.” And in a single act he forfeited both the birthright and the blessing.

So, why did Esau lose his birthright as the firstborn? Was this a result of God’s feelings for Esau?

Malachi 1:2-3, “I loved Jacob, and I hated Esau.” Could this possibly mean that God actually hated Esau? Could it also mean that God favored Jacob over Esau? Or, instead of this (meaning that God hated one person and loved another person), does it mean that God favors a particular kind of person, a particular kind of life and a particular kind of behavior / response?

Genesis 25:23 When Rebekah inquired regarding the twins that “struggled” in her womb, the Lord responded by saying to her, “Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.” The elder here is Esau and the younger is Jacob. Birthright normally advanced to the eldest son. But in the case of Jacob and Esau, the favor of God rested on the one most like God. So, rather than the younger serving the elder, the reverse was actually what happened; the elder served the younger. And the birthright and the blessing passed to Jacob – see

Genesis 27:18-29.

“Two nations” and “two manner of people” were in Rebekah’s womb. Not only were two nations represented by the twins, but two “manner of people.” Now here I want to point out that both in the living body of Christ and in your living body there are two nations and two manner of people. Those “two” are 1) your soul and 2) your spirit. The elder is the older of the two and is your soul. The

younger is the younger of the two and is your spirit. Which one of those two are most like God? Which one of those two is being favored with the birthright? Your spirit.

And the elder (your soul) was always intended to serve the younger (your spirit). It has been said that your soul is comprised of your mind, your will and your emotions. So, in fact, your mind, will and emotions are designed by God to be subservient to and serve your spirit. The question I want to ask at this juncture is, which “man”, which “person” in you is predominantly the out-front person. Is your soul typically the out-front person in your life? Are you predominantly led by and controlled by your mind, will and emotions? Or are you predominantly controlled and led by your spirit? Who answers for you and who acts on your behalf? Which “nation” and which “people” are representing you to the Father and to the world??

The government of God

Isaiah 9:6-7 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”

- Child born – son given
- Government on His shoulder
- Government and peace co-exist
- Government and peace are intended to increase
- God’s government will produce order and peace

Government of God effects every domain / realm

- Civil government
- Holy Nation government
- Domestic government
- Individual government (self government)

1 Timothy 3:5 If you cannot rule “your own house”, you cannot rule in God’s house

Self government = self control

Galatians 5:22-23 self control in the fruit of the Spirit

Spontaneous or Inflexible: Which is Better

Neither!!

The sons of God are led by the Spirit of God (**Romans 8:14** “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”)

So, don’t be so “free” that you are only being led by the next thought, idea, whim, passion, etc., etc. that comes up in you!!

And don't be so "rigid" that there is no room in your thinking for God to tell you to do something that lives outside of your rigidity!!

My soul doth magnify!!

- **Luke 1:46** "My soul doth magnify the Lord"
- Your soul is designed in part to magnify

Seeking the interests of Christ

Philippians 2:19-24 "But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel. Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me. But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly."

- **Philippians 2:20-21 NIV** "For everyone looks out for their own interests"
- You know the proof of him
 - How could they have known?
 - Paul – "I don't have anyone else like him"

Prisoner, Slave, Servant

The prisoner of the Lord

- **Ephesians 3:1; 4:1**
- **2 Timothy 1:8**
- **Philippians 1:1; 1:9**

The servant of the Lord

Matthew 20:27-28 "And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Servant: g1401. δοῦλος doulos; from 1210; **a slave** (literal or figurative, involuntary or voluntary; frequently, therefore in a qualified sense of subjection or subserviency): — bond(-man), servant.

A servant for life: Exodus 21:2-7 "If you buy a Hebrew servant, he is to serve you for six years. But in the seventh year, he shall go free, without paying anything. If he comes alone, he is to go free alone; but if he has a wife when he comes, she is to go with him. If his master gives him a wife and she bears him sons or daughters, the woman and her children shall belong to her master, and only the man shall go free. But if the servant declares, 'I love my master and my wife and children and do not want to go free,' then his master must take him before the judges. He shall take him to the door or the doorpost and pierce his ear with an awl. Then he will be his servant for life."

You are not your own

- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 read
- 1 Corinthians 7:23 read

The tyranny of leading yourself – you are on your own!

2017, a year marked by choice, decisiveness, deliberateness, intentionality, proactivity, and diligence

Which means we must put away the “childish things” of double mindedness, struggles associated with decision making, being swept along by “accidental” living, postponing, procrastination, laziness and lack of discipline.

In order to “put away” these things, we must have the Holy Spirits help and power. So, the invitation to be filled with the Spirit must be met by us with affirmation, agreement and proper positioning.

Some will say, “But I have already been filled with the Spirit, I had that experience in 1998” (or some such response, indicating a historical event and experience). To have had the historical experience is great. It is awesome and certainly to be celebrated. However, do we think that there is a need to continue to be filled with the Spirit?

Do you want to be filled? What kinds of adjustments are necessary in order for you to be positioned to be filled? Will you make a serious inquiry to your Father about these things? And then, will you do what the Father shows you to do about these things?

If you do, you will be filled with the Spirit. If you continue to live this way this year, you will continue to be filled with the Spirit!! And from the place of being refreshed and filled, you will be able to “put away” the things that prevent you from fully embracing and experiencing both your birthright and your blessing!

Ephesians 5:18-6:20 “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the

same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free. And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him. Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

In conclusion, I have included the entire passage above because of its significance to our discussion here. Paul commands and invites us to be filled with the Spirit. And then Paul gives us a detailed view of what will happen as a result of being filled with the Spirit. Paul is clear to point out for us the fact that being filled with the Spirit will affect our relationships and our interactions with those relationships. Whether husbands and wives, parents and children or employer and employee, as we are filled with the Spirit, we are empowered to represent our Father and His kingdom in such a way that pleases God and blesses people.

Your birthright is secure because God is faithful. However, whether any of us fully experiences our birthright and the blessing associated with it depends on how seriously we view both the right and responsibility of this awesome reality. Beloved, do not forfeit the full experience of your birthright. Do not be like Esau.

I believe that a greater grace awaits you now. A grace opening up the richer and deeper things of God to and for you. My prayer is that this word will help position you for more of Jesus this year! Grace and peace to you as you continue to pursue the more excellent way!!