

#DeathToSelfie ~ Part 6 Starving Sons

²⁴ When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. ²⁵ The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. ²⁶ After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them.

²⁷ The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents.

²⁸ Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

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. **Genesis 25:24-34 (NIV)**

1. Beware of mistaking _____ for _____
2. Beware of _____ that become _____
3. Beware of the temptation to give up what you want _____ for what you want _____

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:27 (NIV)

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy. **1 Peter 1:8 (NIV)**

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. **Matthew 5:16 (NIV)**

Questions for Discussion

Choose one of the main topics you wish to focus on with your group and use the following questions as a guide to facilitating your discussion.

#DEATHTOSELFIE

What's the worst deal, trade, or purchase you've ever made? Share a few laughs with these stories.

Read Genesis 25:24-34. We said that impulsiveness is a key feature of selfishness. How is Esau impulsive in this passage? What is the result of his impulsiveness?

BEWARE OF MISTAKING GROWTH FOR MATURITY

We pointed out that even though Jacob and Esau are in their sixties, they are acting like children in Genesis 25. If you have children, what are some things that your kids do that make you cringe? If you don't have kids, what are some things you used to do as a child that you're embarrassed to admit?

What decisions, circumstances, or struggles are most pressing in your life today? Looking back on your life, how would a younger you have handled these situations? How have you "grown up" in these areas? When was the last time you did something, only to find yourself saying later, "Why did I do that?" When you find yourself in that moment, what do you do to come back to God and correct yourself?

BEWARE OF UNSATISFIED APPETITES THAT BECOME EXAGGERATED EMOTIONS

Would you consider yourself an emotional person? What in life makes you the most upset or emotional?

We said that self talk such as "nobody ever asks me to do anything" and "nobody ever appreciates me" creates exaggerated emotions. Does your self talk ever sound like this? What do you do to stop these exaggerated emotions from taking over?

BEWARE OF THE TEMPTATION TO GIVE UP WHAT YOU WANT MOST FOR WHAT YOU WANT NOW

Read Romans 8:29. How does this connect back to Genesis 25? What did we mean when we said that we are all the younger brother?

We gave a couple examples of birthrights that we have as Christians, such as the birthright to have peace and to have a testimony. What other birthrights do we have?

What are some real-life birthrights that we tend to trade in for insignificant things?

STARVING SONS

Read Luke 15:11-24. How are we like the Prodigal Son, "starving" ourselves to death? The Prodigal Son "came to himself" and realized the error of his ways. What was that moment like in your life?

What "bowls" are you still holding onto today?