



#DEATHTOSELFIE

sermon highlights

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WEEK TWO: STARVING SONS

In week 2 of *Death to Selfie*, Pastor Steven preached on Esau selling his birthright for a bowl of beans. We also compromise and sell our birthrights for bowls, but Jesus died on the cross to transfer His birthright to us.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

[Genesis 25:24-34](#)

[Hebrews 12:15-17](#)

[Luke 15:11-24](#)

[Romans 8:29](#)

BEWARE OF THE BOWL

-In Genesis 25, Esau comes in starving from an unsuccessful hunting trip. He asks Jacob to give him a bowl of beans, and Jacob asks Esau to give him his birthright in exchange. Esau says that the birthright is no good to him since he's dying of hunger, and agrees. The writer of Genesis even said, "Esau despised his birthright."

-In reality, Esau's birthright gave him double the inheritance, but he gave it up in a single moment for a bowl of beans. In what looks like the worst negotiation in human history, Esau gave up so much for so little. But, as Pastor Steven preached, as silly as this seems, it's the same pattern that we still follow today.

BEWARE OF MISTAKING GROWTH FOR MATURITY

-Genesis states that Esau and Jacob grew up. They were 60 years old when Esau sold his birthright. But although they grew up, neither acted with much maturity. Esau grew in his hunting skills, but he did not grow in his relationship with God. He learned how to kill his dinner, but never how to control his appetite.

-As Pastor Steven remarked, we can grow up on the outside but stay small on the inside. We need to ask ourselves if we've really grown up or if we're still governed by childish selfishness and impulsiveness.

BEWARE OF UNSATISFIED APPETITES THAT BECOME EXAGGERATED EMOTIONS

-Esau got in trouble because he got too hungry. He was so hungry that he was willing to do anything to satisfy his appetite. He wanted immediate gratification, and became dramatic, saying he was about to die.

-Pastor Steven drew a parallel between Esau's hunger and our spiritual hungers. When we get too hungry, everything gets blown out of proportion. It's when we're too lonely, too tired, or too hungry for affirmation or importance that our emotions are exaggerated and we settle for things we normally wouldn't think twice about.

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

-After Esau sold his birthright, he ate the stew. But Scripture doesn't even say that he enjoyed it. That's because, as Pastor Steven explained, the bowl always looks better in the moment than it really is.

-The Enemy wants to make a deal with us: bowls for birthrights. He can't take anything away from us, but we talk ourselves into giving it to him because we're convinced there's no other way. However, once we see the bowl for what it really is—just a bowl of beans—it loses its power over us.

-Esau's birthright was invisible. He lost perspective and chose something invaluable and visible over something valuable and invisible. In the same way, the Enemy shows us bowls to get us to forfeit our future, purity, or integrity. As 2 Corinthians 4 says, we should fix our eyes on what is unseen, not on what is seen.

STARVING SONS

-As believers in Jesus Christ, we have a birthright, a spiritual inheritance. We possess everything that Jesus possessed because when Jesus ascended into heaven, He sent His inheritance down to us by the Holy Spirit. -But for every birthright, there is a bowl. We sell our peace by choosing to eat worrisome thoughts. We sell our joy by eating from a bowl of things to grumble about. We sell our testimonies by indulging in our tempers.

-Esau chose the bowl and later tried to be restored, but was denied. Hebrews 12 would even call Esau "godless" for his mistakes. Luke 15 tells the story of another son (the Prodigal Son) who chose the bowl, but was fully restored to his father once he came to himself and realized the error of his ways.

-However, there's another Son—Jesus. He was tempted with "bowls" in the desert for 40 days, but never gave in. He survived on the Word of God, not the desires of the world. And He did it so that we might have a chance to be restored as a kind of firstborn sons in God's eyes.

-We're all Esau, having chosen the bowl. But when we come to ourselves and choose Jesus, we can always be restored. We don't have to live as starving sons anymore—God's grace puts an end to all of that.