

S030111a – 04/12/26
“A Bowl of Beans”
Genesis 25:19-34

Introduction – Read Genesis 25:19-34

- This Wednesday night we are going to look at Genesis 25-27 and really see the next section of the book of Genesis which is the life of Isaac
 - And he is going to make mistakes like his father Abraham before him – and of course we will learn from that
 - But he is going to do some really great things, that I think will challenge and instruct all of us this Wednesday if you choose to be here
- My favorite part of the study is Isaac’s two boys, Esau and Jacob – and Esau is described as hairy and the other the is described as a momma’s boy

The momma’s boy is eventually going to glue hair all over himself to try and trick his blind father into blessing him

- And I just laugh and love this passage of scripture
 - Plus I have found some lost photographs of Esau and Jacob, it is so good you have to be here to see them, we are going to have a lot of fun this Wednesday Night so I hope you can be with us!

But this morning I want to direction your attention to the introduction the Bible has concerning these two boys and there is so much for us to learn when we consider the difference between them

- As we look at this text this morning, I want us to notice four things, all brought to you this morning by the letter “B”

“A Bowl of Beans” – Genesis 25:19-34

#1 – The Boys of Isaac – Genesis 25:19-28

#2 – The Birthright – Genesis 25:29-33

#3 – The Bowl of Beans – Genesis 25:34

#4 – The “Bebelos” Person – Hebrews 12:14-17

- So looking at those one at a time, we start this morning with...

“A Bowl of Beans” – Genesis 25:19-34

#1 – The Boys of Isaac – Genesis 25:19-28

- This Wednesday night we will meet a couple who is barren, Isaac and Rebecca but unlike how Abraham and Sarah handled that same situation, this couple prayed

Isaac prays, his wife conceives and as she is having trouble during her pregnancy, she also cries out to the Lord and asks, “what is wrong with me?”

- And God tells her you have two nations in your womb
 - Two whole nations? – now that is a problem!!!

But of course, God was speaking not of thousands of babies, but who Jacob and Esau’s descendants would become – their descendants would become 2 very different nations who would constantly be at war

- And the battles started in the womb, when they were wombmates – ha!!! I worked so long on that one!
 - They fought when they were wombmates and the fighting continued after they were born, because they were so different

Esau was born all hairy and red

- In fact, a little preview of Wednesday night – we have a lost baby picture of Esau – right here

Picture of Elmo

- There it is, an ancient picture of Esau
 - And then his brother Jacob was smoothed skinned moma’s boy, oh we have pictures of him as well, it is going to be so good this Wednesday
- These kids were different from the start

And we see in this story at the end of chapter 25 this difference illustrated for us in such an instructive way dealing with the birthright, notice verse 29 with me...

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#1 – The Boys of Isaac – Genesis 25:19-28

#2 – The Birthright – Genesis 25:29-33

- Verse 29 we see Jacob as described at home cooking stew
 - And Esau comes in from the field – “feed me I’m hungry!”

What a picture of the flesh Esau is – just the most base desires driving everything about him - He is like most of our dogs – our dogs are great pictures of the flesh too aren’t they? - Eat, sleep and for some procreate – that’s it

- It’s all about feed me
 - I had my dog with me at a drive through window a while back, she thought that was the coolest thing in the world – you pull up and these people throw food at you out of a window
 - My dog will eat and eat and eat until she is sick

Well, Esau, like my dog just driven by his flesh

- Jewish history and tradition holds that Esau had been with 3 women that day already while he was away from home, and the Jewish commentators write that one was a young girl engaged to be married to another man
 - Whether when can trust those traditions or not, Jewish tradition clearly states that Esau was all about his base desires for pleasure, for food, for recreation

And so he comes in from the field – hunting wild game, wild women, who knows what he was doing in the fields, but he is hungry

- And he asks Jacob for the food he is making
 - And Jacob says “sell me your birthright and I will give you some food”

Now we need to understand what the birthright entailed so you understand the significance of this event here in Genesis chapter 25

- The firstborn son in those days was given the birthright and this entailed a double portion of the inheritance when your father died
 - But then you were to use that to take care of the rest of the family like your mother and unwed sisters and younger brothers

The birthright also inferred that you were the spiritual leader of the family once Dad passed away – it was your job to lead the family in the deep things of God

- And so the one with the birthright was in a position of leadership both materially and spiritually

And yet Esau apparently cared little for those things

- He didn't care to be the spiritual leader
 - He didn't even care about the double inheritance – he didn't want to take care of Jacob, he didn't need extra of Dad's money – he could live off the land
- And apparently Esau had expressed this disdain for the birthright with words and actions
 - For Jacob didn't just pull this out of the air – he had a sense the Esau was willing to trade the birthright for something that would temporarily feed his flesh, like this bowl of beans – notice verse 34...

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- when I read this story it is things like this that really are the hardest parts of the Bible for me to believe

I have no problem with God parting the red sea or Jesus walking on water

- For I believe that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth

And so for Him to do miraculous things with what He created in the first place, I have no problem with

- But when I read of a man who is only interested in fleshly pursuits, taking that to such an extreme that a temporary meal is worth more to him than even a double portion of Dad's money – I just don't get it!
 - How is a bowl of beans, a bowl of lentils worth more than double the inheritance of your wealthy father?

I just don't get it until I consider the fact that I can be just the same way and I think maybe you can too

- Let me explain
 - We too, as believers in Jesus Christ have a birthright
 - Paul says in Romans 8, verse 16...

“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” – Romans 8:16-17

- Now think for just a minute what Paul is saying here
 - He is saying that we as children of God are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ
 - Let's take those backwards
- We are joint heirs with Christ
 - You understand what a joint heir is right? – we get what He gets from His Father in heaven – we get the same thing – we are joint heirs
 - Well what does Christ get? – Hebrews 1 tells us

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things...” – Hebrews 1:1-2

- Jesus is heir of all things!
 - That is amazing – it all belongs to Him and by that in the end, it all belongs to us

I know that sounds abstract, but consider what I am saying to you – there is coming a day in eternity when everything is yours – everything!

- You know I tend to be a jealous of the people that are members of awesome golf courses the bridges, and the Crosby Club in Rancho Sante Fe and yes that was a shameless plug if you are a member there, but I was driving by the other day and just thought, someday, I will play there – because that place is included in everything, Jesus is an heir of all things, and I am a joint heir with Jesus so...

In all seriousness I don't think Paul was talking about golf courses, but we are inheritors of all things and to me even greater than that is the fact Paul also says you are an inheritor of God Himself

- More than the house on the beach or in the hills or the golf club membership or whatever you dream of, you are a joint heir of Christ who gets everything, but far more than that, you get Him and the glorious truth that it is in Him is all we need for life and godliness
 - In His presence is fullness of joy and pleasures forever more, the Psalms tells us
- What you are looking for and think you will achieve with a raise or a retirement or vacation?
 - What you are looking for is really found in Him!
 - And good news – He is yours for eternity!

That is our birthright as believers in Christ

- And even beyond the stuff in eternity that we will enjoy, think about just the here and now with the fruits of the Spirit that can be ours when we are walking in fellowship with our God
 - Paul says to the Galatians...

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” – Galatians 5:22-23

That is what is available right now!

- Love – aren't we looking for love (whether single or married?)
 - Joy – isn't that what we are spending money looking for?
- Peace – isn't the world obsessed with trying to find that?
 - Self-Control – don't you cry out for that to be reality in whatever area you struggle in?

All that is available to those who walk in fellowship with God, who walk in the Spirit, who have the right as Children of God to claim those things

- Those are ours to claim!

So then the million-dollar question is why don't we experience those things on a daily basis?

- And I would suggest to you because we are trading our birthright as children of God for things that temporarily feed our flesh - I am afraid that we are so often willing to forfeit the blessings that are our right in Christ for something that is no better than a bowl of beans

For Jesus Himself asked in Matthew 16, “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul. Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” – Matthew 16:26

- And I ask us, what would we give in exchange for our soul?
 - 1 million dollars? - hopefully not
 - 100 million dollars? – well that is a lot of money, but you are talking about my soul – I don't know?
- Most of us, if asked the question that way would say “Not for sell”
 - But the sad truth is many of us are missing out on the blessings of Christ and enjoying His presence because we are selling out for something much less

Here me on this

- I don't care what it is.

Advancement at work – a moment of pleasure, sharing your bitterness so you feel vindicated

- Whatever it is you are trading in for the richness of a close relationship with Jesus - it is only a bowl of beans in comparison, do you hear me on that?
 - Oh but she is so pretty – It's a bowl of beans!
 - Oh but if just cut corners I will advance and have so much to give my kids – It's a bowl of beans!
 - Oh but I need to share my hurt with others, it makes me feel good – It's a Bowl of beans, a bowl of beans church!
- We can choose to walk down that path, but in reality it will just be a bowl of beans and that is not what we want, so how can we learn to walk in victory this morning? – well our last point today...

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#4 – The “Bebelos” Person – Hebrews 12:14-17

- What? “Bebelos Person? – well the author of Hebrews brings this story from Genesis 25 up again in the New Testament for us to consider the deep ramifications of what I am saying and I think to show us a way out of being a man or a women like Esau just driven by the flesh, away from the birthright in Christ

Now consider what the author to Hebrews is saying and what he is not saying

- Some people don't like the book of Hebrews because it says some pretty scary things about not being able to repent and we wonder what all of that is about
 - And there are really good reasons that what the Book of Hebrews is teaching does not in anyway contradict the fact we are saved by grace and that if we confess our sin He will be faithful to forgive our sin, all of it

But in general, the book of Hebrews seems to be terribly misunderstood and a great example of that is here in Hebrews 12

- The author is not telling us that Esau wanted to repent and couldn't, like that might happen to you
 - But what the author is really doing is warning us

The author is referring not just the story we are reading about this morning in Genesis 25, but also the story we will study Wednesday in Genesis 27 – where Esau now wants to be blessed by his father Isaac and yet it's too late

- The blessing had already been given to Jacob
 - And although Jacob receives the blessing because he was tricking his father, one of the important lessons we will see Wednesday is he didn't have to do that
 - Jacob was going to be blessed

Jacob was going to be the one God called the Jewish people and Messiah through

- And yes that was because he had made a decision to bless and go with Jacob instead of Esau
 - But one of the reasons I think God made that decision was because of what the book of Hebrews chapter 12 says in verses 16-17

“lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.” – Hebrews 12:16-17

- The author of Hebrews says that Esau was profane – that he was not interested in the things of the Lord
 - The Greek word there is “Bebelos” (Be-bay-los)

“Bebelos” means “outside the temple.”

And the word picture there is someone who didn't have a sanctuary or sacred place inside his heart to meet with God

- And I want you to consider that, because not having that sacred secret place, that sanctuary in your own heart was the problem for Esau and the answer for us

You see it was not that Esau didn't hear the stories his father Isaac was telling about his grandfather Abraham or the God they both served

- Esau no doubt knew the stories
 - Esau no doubt had watched his father build alters and worship the Lord – He was aware of God
- The problem for Esau is he never let there be a sanctuary or an alter developed in his own heart toward the Lord

A place of repentance and intimacy, something that God could use as a catalyst for change and reformation in Esau's heart

➤ That was essential the difference between the two boys
Jacob would have moral problems just like his brother Esau

- Isaac had moral issues
 - Abraham had all kinds of failures and fallings in his life
- But Abraham, Isaac and Jacob would each in their lives dig wells and build alters to the Lord
 - And more importantly than the alters they built physically were the alters they allowed to be built in their own heart to meet with God and talk things over with Him and have a little bit of who He was rub off on who they were

It was that same difference that made David a man after God's own heart

- I mean let's be honest about David – he was a sinner
 - He was liar, a compulsive liar

He was an adulterer, and beyond that he had multiple wives and concubines, just live in ladies

- David was a murderer of Uriah the Hittite – that wasn't war, that was cold hearted murder

And we look at that and we think – how can that guy be called a man after God's own heart?

- And I am convinced it is because David was many things, but he was not an idolater and we know that because David built alters – not just physical alters to worship, he did that for sure
 - But David built sacred places in his heart to meet with God

You read in the psalms

- David's private crying out for God
 - His desire to be someone different than even he really was - David had that sanctuary within

And because of that he was not profane, even with all of his sin – David was not outside the sanctuary – David had a sanctuary, he had an alter in his heart - And Esau who may or may not have even out sinned David - The Bible says Esau was profane

- The Bible says he was outside the sanctuary
 - Because Esau never took the time to build an alter to worship God - Not in the physical world and certainly not in the realm of his own heart

Now how can we build an alter in our hearts, so that we are not profane, so that we can have a place to come and meet with God, repent before Him and let Him speak into our lives and rub off a little of who He is, into who we are?

- How do we build an alter in our hearts?

Well you build an alter by having those secret places in your heart for times of prayer to the Lord, reading and meditating on God's worship, lifting up your soul in worship and fellowshiping with others in the presence of the Lord

Now hopefully we all pray

- We pray before bed with the kids maybe
 - We pray with our wives before we go to sleep – hopefully
 - We pray before we eat – thanking God for food
- But I am talking about having those times that you just sit with the Lord and pour out your heart, just you and Him
 - I hope you have an altar of prayer, if not let's be determined this week to build one, and keep coming back to it over and over again

We all have a relationship with the Bible, you are sitting in church today listening to a Bible study

- But I am talking about building an altar where you sit alone with God and His Word and just let His Word speak into your life
 - And if I can challenge you a little bit today, I am not talking about just reading a devotional, oh those can be wonderful additions to your time with God

But the honest truth is, some of you are too mature to have your devotions be where you only read someone else's thoughts on God's word

- You need your own altar, where you come again and again with an open Bible and an open heart and a note book or a digital journal to write things down
 - And just have an altar built by the Word of God

We all worship, we did it this morning

- And there is something so amazing about corporate worship, but as amazing as corporate worship is, there is something special about having your own altar
 - Where you just sit with the Lord or walk with the Lord or drive down the street with the Lord and just pour out your heart, with the worship music you picked, you get to pick with worship at your private altar
 - You get to pick the songs, you get to pick the volume

It's is so great friends, but do it, build that alter of worship in your heart

- Listen friends, like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, we all have issues in our lives, we all make many mistakes and sin
 - But what can make sure we are not profane, that we are not outside the sanctuary, is like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and unlike Esau, we need to build an alter in our hearts and lives

Build that alter, build it daily in your life

- Dig that well deep in your relationship with Jesus

In chapter 26 this Wednesday Night we will see Isaac dig out the wells his father Abraham had dug, that the men of the land had filled up with dirt and mud

- Isaac takes the time to dig them out and he remembers the names his father use to call them
 - And I was reading that and think – man some of us have heritage that our fathers and mothers or grandparents or maybe just our spiritual fathers have dug for us
- And the world has a way of filling those wells up with dirt
 - Or don't be so legalistic about the Word or prayer or worship or fellowship – does God really care about those things? –dirt, dirt, dirt

And the answer is yes He does! - not to make God love you more or to make you more saved – but our fathers, our spiritual fathers called them spiritual disciplines

- And as we get back to digging those wells out again, as we take time to build personal alters in our lives
 - Yes at times we will struggle with sin and rebellion
- But we have a place for God to meet with us from, to pour out forgiveness and grace and to make us more like Him, because we are not outside the sanctuary, we have taken the time to build a sanctuary in our hearts
 - Amen? Amen!
 - People up front for prayer – worship!