

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



These discussion questions are designed to extend the impact of the Sunday message. You can use them for your personal Bible study, family study, and/or small group study.

Overview

Sermon: *Bowl of Stew*. Bottom line: *Don't trade in your future for a bowl of stew..*

"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 25:34

Our immediate problems blind our ability to see God's future promises. In the moment your problems seem bigger than God's promises. In the moment we magnify the pain of our problems. In the moment our wants and our desires grow larger than life. It's called focalism. *Focalism: focuses our mind on one thing and blurs out everything else.*

Our memories of God's faithfulness to us and how he has come through for us fade into the background. The faith to see God's future glory in what he has promised is replaced by our focus on our present desires. Resist admiring the problem and magnifying a desire only to lose the wonder of God's promises. Don't trade in your future promises to satisfy your present desires.

Discussion

1. Have you ever purchased something or made a decision and immediately afterward experienced buyer's remorse? Share with the group. Share a story about when you have ever thought a problem or a desire was bigger than it really was? Were you able to see it differently? Explain.
2. Read Genesis 25:19-34. How do you relate to Esau saying, "I am famished"? How does this passage foreshadow Esau's demise? What did Esau stand to lose? What makes this story so ridiculous? What makes it relevant?
3. Esau made a bad trade. What bad trades do people make today? Why can it be so hard to see how our decisions in the moment have a great effect on our future? What can we do to keep our future and God's promises in perspective?
4. Esau despised his birthright. Hebrews 12:16 calls him godless. How is trading in the eternal for the temporary a matter of faith (see also Hebrews 11:1 & 6)?
5. Jacob steals Esau's blessing from Isaac. Esau threatens to kill him for it and Jacob runs away. In Genesis 32 & 33, Esau has an opportunity for revenge but chooses not to take it. What can this teach us about God's love, his blessing, redemption, and forgiveness?

Application

6. Esau tells Jacob, "I have plenty" (Gen 33:9). How is God able to bless you even if you've made a bad trade. What bad trade do you need forgiveness for? Where do we need to replace, "I'm famished" with "I have plenty"?

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