

Pottage Or Pearls

Of all the short-sighted people I have ever read about, the worst has to be Esau. "But Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright as of this day."... Then Jacob said, "Swear to me as of this day." So, he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. 34 And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus, Esau despised his birthright." (Genesis 25:31, 33-34). Imagine selling your inheritance for a bowl of food. Esau probably thought he was making a "good deal". After all he was about to die of starvation! He just had to have that food right then and there. Or, did he? In reality, Esau was a short-sighted fool. After his belly was full, he hated what he had done and Jacob. Imagine hating someone because of your foolishness.

Jesus in teaching about the kingdom of heaven said, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, "who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it." (Matthew 13:45-46). This merchant had a lot of good qualities. To start with, he was looking for the right thing. He was looking for beautiful pearls. Next, he realized what he had found. He then understood its worth and set out to obtain the pearl. Jesus was emphasizing the value of heaven and the need to sacrifice so as to go to heaven. This means investing in the long-term spiritual goal and not just the short term or physical things.

Which are you like? Are you short sighted like Esau? Are you more interested in this year's Super Bowl than your own soul? Which one will last forever? Do you have to have that new car or dress, or whatever, but put off going to church? Do you work to get that over time and bigger pay check but get upset if the preacher goes overtime in his lesson?

There are many Esaus around us today but very few merchants seeking beautiful pearls. Esau in Hebrews 12:16 is described as a profane or common person. In this age most people are interested in only the physical and monetary. Jesus appeals to those who know what is really important. Think about it. - - Dennis Tucker