



the same trap, become spiritually bankrupt and forfeit our soul for the transient goods of this world. Our souls stand to gain untold wealth, prosperity, and rest, but not in this time. Let us hold fast to the promised inheritance that our souls may rejoice when they are required of us, or else we will share in Esau's disappointment and we will experience first-hand the awful clarity that comes with the realization of squandering something priceless that can never be recovered.

What must have that been like for Esau—to suddenly realize that he had traded his father's greatest gifts for a single bowl of soup? The Hebrew writer gives some idea in the words **“he found no place for repentance”** and **“he sought for it with tears”** (Heb. 12:17). When Esau realized the full weight of consequences his choice carried, he could not repent—no amount of sorrow or weeping or wishing would return his inheritance to him. It was simply too late. Now we have been promised an inheritance infinitely greater than anything Esau ever knew in his life—salvation and an eternal home with God. Do you suppose that on the Day of Judgment there will be those willing to give *anything* to gain that inheritance? They, like Esau, may wail and beg and seek for it with tears, but they will find no place for repentance. Brethren, we must see to it that we not “come short of the grace of God”, or the tragedy of Esau will be our own.



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Faithful Sayings Issue 13.45 November 6, 2011

Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

● Let us know if you have any questions.

ISSUE

13.45

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

November 6
2011

Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Steve Dixon
Pat Goguen
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Jason Garcia



Biblical Characters of Faith

 Olsen Park Church of Christ
invites you to our Fall...

Gospel Meeting

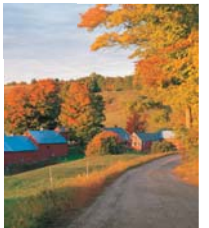
with

Curtis Pope

of Houston, Texas

November 13-18, 2011

Sunday: 9:30, 10:20, 6:00
Weeknights: 7:30



An Expensive Bowl of Soup

By Jason Garcia

We've all made purchases we wished we could take back. Either we invested in a product that we thought would be fantastic and make life easier only to discover that it would work better as a paperweight. Maybe we bought something and found out a short time afterwards that we were hor-

rendously overcharged. Whatever the case, we've all committed to something that, at a later time, we desperately wished we could undo. A man named Esau was no stranger to this kind of feeling. He was a man who stood to gain a great deal from his father Isaac. Esau, however, was impulsive and imprudent. If we aren't careful, we can easily make the same mistake as he did. We too may awake one day to find that the inheritance promised to us will have passed by forever—lost for an eternity.

We can learn much from Esau's mistake, and we do not have to share his legacy. How does Scripture remember Esau? We find the answer in Hebrews:

See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears (Heb. 12:15-17 NASB).

Esau may have very well purchased the most expensive bowl of soup in history. Tragically, many follow in his footsteps. Every new day of life is another opportunity for one to accept the grace of God, and every day there are millions who settle for less. In short, they are too easily satisfied—they have been swindled by the devil. They prefer the fleeting pleasures of sin rather than the eternal satisfaction and fulfillment offered by their Creator. Sadly, even among brethren, there have been those seduced by the flesh, and have abandoned their inheritance. How can we avoid making the same mistake, knowing that sin can so quickly entangle us? (cf. Heb. 12:1) Let us reflect on some of the Lord's teaching regarding

the Kingdom, the worth of the soul, and the awful clarity that will come to those on the Day of Judgment who made the same mistake as Esau.

Paul tells us that, as Christians, we have been rescued from the domain of darkness, and transferred to the kingdom of God's beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (cf. Col. 1:13-14). All the wealth in the world could never purchase such a gift. The Lord likens the Kingdom to priceless treasures that demand all of our resources upon discovery. He says, **"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field"** (Matt. 13:44). Again, He says, **"The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it"** (Matt. 13:45-46). Would we relinquish such treasure for a single meal—one moment of passing pleasure? The Spirit says only an immoral and godless person would do such a thing. To be a part of God's Kingdom is a privilege that few people have recognized and enjoyed in man's history, and to give up the Kingdom is to cast away one's most precious treasure—the salvation of his or her soul. Incidentally, the Scripture speaks to the worth of the soul as well.

Jesus asked a powerful question in order to help His hearers grasp the precious value of the soul. He said, **"For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"** (Mark 8:36-37). The soul has value beyond anything this world can offer. There is perhaps no greater illustration than the man who invested all of his time and re-



sources into procuring earthly things, yet gave no attention to his soul (cf. Luke 12:18-21). Though we are confronted with many economic woes, we still live in a very affluent country relative to the rest of the world. Have we, like the rich man, said, **"Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry"** (Luke 12:19)? If we are not cautious, brethren, we too can fall into

