

Buyer's Remorse

Hebrews 12:16-17

Antiochus IV (king of Syria) (175-164 BC)

- Called himself *Epiphanes*: “the illustrious”
- Jews called him *Epimanes*: “the madman”
- Antiochus’ mission in life: to Hellenize Jews

Gymnasium in
Jerusalem

Greek gods
over Israel

Athenian philosopher:
head of religion

god of Israel is
Zeus; swine sacrifice

Set his image on Temple altar

Jews called it *abomination of desolation*

Maccabees describe what Antiochus did

- *Desecrate*, 2 Mac.8:1. *Profane*, Ac.24:6
- Hb.12:16, like Esau – unholy, godless, unspiritual, irreverent, worldly

Esau had good traits –

1. Hunter, Gn.25:27
2. Isaac's favorite son, 25:28
3. Desired to please, 26:34-35; 28:8-9
4. Anger; threats; repented, 27:41-45; ch.33; 35:29

Why is Esau 'godless'?

I. He Valued Body Over Birthright (Gn.25:29-34)

Traded priceless blessing for physical pleasure

Birthright gave:

1. Right to lead Isaac's house; priesthood; pass blessing to children
2. Custodian of promised 'seed' of Abraham
 - Profane (Hb.12:16): godless, unholy, worldly
 - Area before temple: pro-fanum

“Thus Esau despised his birthright” -Gn.25:34

- Think lightly of; despise, consider worthless
- Innocent things may displace spiritual

Esau despised his birthright (Gn.25:34)

“To accord little worth to something” (blasphemy)

“While this action may or may not include overt feelings of contempt or scorn, the biblical usage indicates that the very act of undervaluing something or someone implies contempt” – TWOT

Acted blasphemy

- Earthly / material trumps spiritual
- Secular / physical trumps all
- Small item / temporal trumps heavenly blessing

Christian's great danger: profane

Become godless / worldly / unholy / unspiritual

1. Esau gave so much to get so little; traded great spiritual blessings for tiny physical blessing. Readers may trade blessings in Christ for temporary physical protection.
2. 1 T.1:9, irreligious; consider nothing sacred
Abortions; school shootings . . . Society has lost focus on God; human life is cheap
3. 1 T.4:7, occupied with worldly, foolish tales
[Illustrated: Lk.12:13... Lk.15... Lk.22:47]

I. He Valued Body Over Birthright

II. He Failed to Count the Cost

Lk.14:25-27

Willing to sacrifice all for Lord

Esau: gave up all for one meal, Gn.25

Animals and worldly people act impulsively –

- Lv.10:10, distinguish
- Mt.6:13, hypocrisy

Sports

Job

Marriage

I. He Valued Body Over Birthright

II. He Failed to Count the Cost

III. He Lived for Present, not Future

Hb.11:6, **diligently seek Him**

Hb.12:3-4, some rejected truth to avoid persecution

Esau failed the test; lost inheritance (1:14)

2 Pt.1:9, short-sighted

Readers are warned... If temporary troubles can lure them to trade Paradise for Profanity, they are worse than Esau

- Short-sighted = blind
- May choose sin / pleasure, but not consequences

I. He Valued Body Over Birthright

II. He Failed to Count the Cost

III. He Lived for Present, not Future

IV. He Could not Undo His Decision

No place for repentance (NKJV: NASB)

No opportunity for changing a former decision

– Westcott

1. God did not refuse to let Esau repent of sin; Esau could not change Isaac's mind to receive the blessing, Gn.27:38, 33-34
2. He sold his birthright for one meal; he could not regain what he had cast aside. High privilege requires great responsibility
3. If readers spurn Christ and return to Judaism, they lose the greatest blessing of all

No place for repentance (NKJV: NASB)

“These Hebrew Christians will be guilty of a much greater act of profanity if, disheartened by the difficulties of the contest, they barter not an earthly but a heavenly birthright for a short period of worldly ease and prosperity” – Hughes

No place for repentance (NKJV: NASB)

- Esau was trying to undo the consequences of his past worldly attitude
 1. Neither historically nor biblically could he ever recover the lost blessing
 2. Lk.13:28, after death, no more opportunity to repent

No place for repentance (NKJV: NASB)

- Past is unchangeable; consequences remain
- Esau despised / sold his birthright
- Tears imply change of heart (repentance?), but all begging / pleading is too little, too late
 - ▶ Anger, murder ... deep regret – tears do not change facts
- “In former days he might have had it without tears; afterwards he was rejected, however sorely he wept. Let us use the time” – Bengel

Neglect / rejection of privileges brings irreversible consequences

Eccl.11:3, the tree . . .

- No reverse... no do over... no undo button

David could repent

Not erase conseq.

Isaac preferred Esau

Not restore blessing

Esau: "I take it back"

He made his bed . . .

- Gn.27:38, his tears could not undo the damage
- Hb.12:16, preferred meal to Maker
- Ship... Verdict...

I. He Valued Body Over Birthright

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V. One Bad Decision Was
Enough To Ruin Him

Esau traded his birthright, not his blessing

- He lost both
- Sold birthright but wanted to keep blessings that belonged to it. Ja.2:10-11
- This is not a restaurant. We cannot...
 - ...Reject repentance, then assume salvation because of faith
 - ...Hate brother, claim to love God (1 Jn.4)
 - ...Live immorally, expect heaven because we taught the lost...?

Esau's desire to receive the blessing may have come many years after the 'sale'

- Time alone could not erase his deed
- Mt.16:26
- Esau's porridge is no longer a 'happy meal'
- Child's "I'm sorry" = back to business as usual
- Others like Esau –
 - Achan, Josh.7
 - Ananias and Sapphira, Ac.5