

A SEVEN DAY DEVOTIONAL

A Little Pot

Esau, the pottage, and the birthright

Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

HEBREWS 12:16

Seven mornings. One passage each day, read slowly and out loud.

LIFE CHURCH OF NEW JERSEY

New Life Starts Here

A LITTLE POT

One morsel of meat.

Not a fortune. Not a kingdom. One bowl of red stew, and a man traded the future
God promised his family.

He never said he was done with God. He just put the birthright on hold for lunch.

Most people don't sell out for the world. They sell out for a bowl.

This week we take the cards back.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

How To Use These Seven Days

Ten or fifteen minutes a morning. That's all this asks.

READ IT OUT LOUD

Every day opens with Scripture printed in full. Read it aloud before anything else on the page. The Word does the work; the rest is commentary.

ONE DAY AT A TIME

Don't read ahead. The days build on each other, and Day Seven lands differently if you've walked through the first six.

DIGGING DEEPER IS OPTIONAL

The boxed section carries the Hebrew and Greek. Skip it on a rushed morning and come back to it on a slow one.

THE CARDS

On Sunday the cards for faith, relationship, and destiny got set down next to the pots. By the end of the week, they go back where they belong.

WRITE IT DOWN

There are lines on every second page for a reason. You'll want to read this back a year from now.

It's never just a little pot.

The Pot Shows Up When You're Tired

Esau didn't lose his future on a strong day.

READ

And Jacob sod pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he was faint: And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom.

GENESIS 25:29-30 KJV

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

MATTHEW 4:4 KJV

REFLECT

Esau didn't get up that morning planning to sell his future. He went to work. He came in from the field empty and worn out, and there was the pot, sitting on the fire.

That's the part we skip. The pot didn't show up on a good day. It showed up when he was **faint**.

Temptation works like that. It waits. Eleven o'clock at night when you're alone and scrolling. The week the rent is late. Right after the argument. The enemy isn't creative, but his timing is good.

Listen to Esau: "that same red." He doesn't even call it stew. When you're that drained you stop seeing what things really are. You just see relief.

Jesus was hungry too, forty days in. Same setup, a hungry man and an offer of bread. But He answered the craving with the Word. Tired isn't a sin. But tired is when you need to be ready.

DIGGING DEEPER

Faint is Hebrew *ayeph* (Strong's H5889): weary, exhausted, spent (Brown-Driver-Briggs). Esau isn't lazy here. He's empty.

"That same red." In Hebrew Esau repeats himself, something like "the red, the red stuff." He's too hungry to find the word. Moses adds that this is why he was called **Edom**, which means red.

One bad moment became a nickname, and the nickname became a nation. Genesis 36:1: *"Now these are the generations of Esau, who is Edom."*

SEARCH YOUR HEART

1. When in your day or week are you most "faint": tired, lonely, stretched thin?
2. What pot usually shows up in that moment?

TAKE IT WITH YOU

Find your tired hour. Write Matthew 4:4 on a card or make it your lock screen, and read it out loud when that hour comes.

PRAY

Lord, You know when I'm faint. I don't want to make forever decisions on an empty stomach. Fill me with Your Word before the pot shows up. In Jesus' name, amen.

NOTES

Shortsighted

He could see the bowl. He couldn't see the road ahead.

READ

And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me?

GENESIS 25:32 KJV

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

MARK 8:36-37 KJV

But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

2 PETER 1:9 KJV

REFLECT

Was Esau really dying? He was a grown man standing in a house full of food. But appetite always says it's an emergency. **I need this now.** It almost never is.

Notice his question: *what profit?* What good is a future I can't eat?

Jesus asks the same question turned around. What good is right now if it costs you your soul? And Esau didn't even gain the world. He gained a bowl of beans. Most people don't sell out for the world. They sell out for a bowl.

Peter says some believers "cannot see afar off." That's nearsighted. You can read the menu just fine. You just can't read the road sign.

Esau read the menu perfectly.

DIGGING DEEPER

Cannot see afar off is one Greek word, *muopazo* (G3467): to be short-sighted, to see only what is near (Thayer). It's where we get **myopia**. It's used only here in the New Testament.

Peter's cure isn't "try harder to see." It's **grow**. In verses 5-7 he lists faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, charity. A growing person starts to see farther.

Birthright (*bekorah*, H1062) sounds almost like **blessing** (*berakah*, H1293), but they're different. Esau sold the birthright in Genesis 25. Jacob took the blessing in Genesis 27.

SEARCH YOUR HEART

1. What decision are you facing that looks one way at five minutes and another way at five years?
2. Where have you been asking "what profit is this to me?" about prayer, church, or holiness?

TAKE IT WITH YOU

Ask the five-year question. Before one decision today, say it out loud: "What does this look like five years from now?"

PRAY

Father, open my eyes to see afar off. I've been reading the menu and missing the road. Help me grow until I see what You see. In Jesus' name, amen.

NOTES

It's Never Just a Little Thing

Little foxes. A little leaven. One dead fly.

READ

Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:15 KJV

Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?
... A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

GALATIANS 5:7, 9 KJV

Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour.

ECCLESIASTES 10:1 KJV

REFLECT

Hebrews says Esau sold his birthright for “one morsel of meat.” Not a kingdom. One plate.

The Bible keeps coming back to little things. Not the lion, **the little foxes**. Not a bag of yeast, **a little leaven**. One dead fly in the perfume.

Paul tells the Galatians, “Ye did run well.” You started strong. Nobody decided to drift. Something small got in, and it spread.

Skipping prayer once, then twice, then it's normal. One show. One conversation. And every time the voice says, **it's not a big deal**.

You don't notice the nail. You notice the flat tire, three days later, on the highway.

DIGGING DEEPER

Leaven is Greek *zume* (G2219). Vine's notes that leaven in Scripture usually pictures corruption, because of how it works: quietly, spreading through the whole lump until you can't pull it back out.

The four steps. When Achan took what God had claimed at Jericho, he described it in four words: he **saw**, he **coveted**, he **took**, he **hid** (Joshua 7:21). Israel lost the next battle at Ai.

It's Esau's pattern too. He saw the red, he wanted it, he took it, and he walked off like it was nothing. You can stop it at any one of those steps.

SEARCH YOUR HEART

1. What "little fox" have you been letting run around your vineyard?
2. Which step are you on with it: saw, coveted, took, or hid?

TAKE IT WITH YOU

Name one little fox. Write it down, then tell one person you trust. Hidden things lose their power in the light.

PRAY

Lord, I've called some things little that You don't call little. Catch the foxes before they spoil the fruit. I did run well. Help me run well again. In Jesus' name, amen.

NOTES

Faith on Hold

None of the pots ask you to quit God. They ask you to wait.

READ

And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

LUKE 10:39-42 KJV

REFLECT

Esau never said "I'm done with God." He just set the birthright aside for lunch. **He put it on hold.**

That's what the pots on Sunday's table were about. Pleasure. Offense. Money. Comfort. The wrong crowd. Distraction. None of them ask for everything. They just ask you to wait on God for a while. "I'll get back to it."

Martha is the surprising one. She wasn't sinning. She was cooking for Jesus! But the pot pulled her out of the room where He was talking.

Some of your pots aren't even bad things. They're good things sitting in the wrong place.

DIGGING DEEPER

Cumbered is *perispao* (G4049): to be drawn around, pulled away, over-occupied (Thayer). That's **outward**, her attention dragged off by tasks.

Careful is *merimnao* (G3309): anxious, worried. That's **inward**. The two words aren't the same. Martha was pulled away on the outside and anxious on the inside. Most pots do both.

One verse before Esau, Hebrews 12:15 warns about a "root of bitterness." That's the offense pot, and it never stays in one person: "thereby many be defiled."

SEARCH YOUR HEART

- 1. Which pot has your card sitting next to it right now? (The list is on page 19.)
- 2. What have you been telling God, "I'll get back to it," about?

TAKE IT WITH YOU

Take one card back today. Do one thing that undoes your pot: fifteen minutes at His feet before you pick up your phone, or one text to the person you're offended at.

PRAY

Jesus, I've been cumbered about many things and I've put You on hold. Today I choose the one thing that's needful. I'm taking my card back. In Jesus' name, amen.

NOTES

Profane and Rejected

How the New Testament remembered Esau.

READ

Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

HEBREWS 12:16-17 KJV

And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? bless me, even me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept.

GENESIS 27:38 KJV

REFLECT

Hebrews doesn't remember Esau as a hunter or the father of a nation. It remembers him for **one meal**. One decision became his whole description.

The word is *profane*, and it means common. Esau didn't hate the birthright. He just didn't think it was worth more than soup. You don't have to hate church to do that. You just have to get bored with holy things.

Years later the tears came. But look: Esau cried for the **blessing**. Scripture never shows him crying that he **despised** the birthright. He was sorry about the result, not the choice.

God forgives the sin. He doesn't always erase the consequences. Value the birthright now, before the pot.

DIGGING DEEPER

Profane is *bebelos* (G952), from a word for a threshold, ground anyone can walk across (Thayer; Vine's). Common. Not set apart.

Rejected is *apodokimazo* (G593): rejected after examining. Hold on to this word. It comes back on Day Seven.

No place of repentance. The KJV margin reads "or, way to change his mind." Isaac would not take the blessing back (Genesis 27:33).

Two kinds of sorry. 2 Corinthians 7:10: "*For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.*"

SEARCH YOUR HEART

- 1. Are your tears sometimes more about what you lost than about what you chose?
- 2. What holy thing have you started treating as common?

TAKE IT WITH YOU

Don't wait for the tears. Settle one thing with God today that you've been putting off. Now is the accepted time.

PRAY

Lord, I don't want to be remembered for one meal. Give me godly sorrow, not just sorry about what it cost me. I won't wait until the blessing is gone. In Jesus' name, amen.

NOTES

Two Hungry Sons

Same start as Esau. A very different ending.

READ

And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, ... And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

LUKE 15:17-18, 20 KJV

REFLECT

Put the two sons side by side. Both wanted it **now**. Both traded their inheritance for an appetite. Both ended up in the fields. Both ended up starving.

Then the stories split. After the trade Esau "rose up, and went his way." The prodigal "came to himself" and **arose, and came to his father**. Same verb. Opposite direction.

Esau cried "bless me." He came for the **blessing**. The prodigal said "I have sinned." He came for the **Father**.

And the father ran. Robe, ring, shoes, and then a feast. Esau sold his future for one meal. The prodigal came home and the father fed him.

DIGGING DEEPER

Had compassion is *splagchnizomai* (G4697): moved in the inward parts, the gut (Thayer). The father felt it in his stomach before the son said a word.

Robe, ring, shoes. David Guzik (Enduring Word) notes the robe was honor, the ring was authority, and shoes meant sonship, because servants went barefoot.

The father ran like Esau ran. Genesis 33:4: “*And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept.*” Almost word for word with Luke 15:20. Even Esau’s story didn’t end at the bowl.

SEARCH YOUR HEART

1. Is there a “far country” you’ve been living in, even while you still come to church?
2. When you come to God, do you come for the blessing or for the Father?

TAKE IT WITH YOU

Take one step home. If you walked away from something, your prayer time, a ministry, the altar, take one real step back toward it today. The Father runs the rest of the way.

PRAY

Father, I’m coming to myself. I’m not coming for what You can give me. I’m coming for You. Thank You for running. In Jesus’ name, amen.

NOTES

Rejected So You Could Be Accepted

The Firstborn who never sold out.

READ

To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

1 PETER 2:4 KJV

To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

EPHESIANS 1:6 KJV

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

EPHESIANS 1:13-14 KJV

REFLECT

Esau was **rejected**. Peter uses the same word for Jesus: “disallowed indeed of men.”

But not for the same reason. Esau sold his birthright. Jesus never sold anything. He’s the Firstborn who never traded it away, and He took the rejection **so you could be accepted**.

That’s why the Father can run. That’s why the door is still open.

Paul says the Holy Spirit is “the earnest of our inheritance.” An earnest is a down payment. Esau sold his inheritance. **God is putting a deposit into yours.**

So today we put the cards back. Faith. Relationship. Destiny.

DIGGING DEEPER

Disallowed is *apodokimazo* (G593), the same word used of Esau in Hebrews 12:17. Jesus stepped into the rejection we earned.

Earnest is *arrabon* (G728): money paid in a purchase as a pledge that the rest is coming (Thayer).

The promise reaches afar off. Acts 2:39: *“For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call.”* The nearsighted man couldn’t see afar off. The promise reaches there anyway.

Acts 2:4: *“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

SEARCH YOUR HEART

- 1. Have you received the Holy Ghost, the down payment on your inheritance?
- 2. Which card are you putting back today: faith, relationship, or destiny?

TAKE IT WITH YOU

Write FAITH, RELATIONSHIP, DESTINY on a card and put it in your Bible at Hebrews 12. If you haven’t been baptized in Jesus’ name or received the Holy Ghost, talk to Pastor this week.

PRAY

Jesus, You were rejected so I could be accepted. I put my faith back. I put my relationship with You back. I put my destiny back. Fill me with Your Spirit. In Jesus’ name, amen.

NOTES

Looking Back Over the Week

Read all seven lines before you answer anything.

DAY ONE

The pot always shows up when you're tired.

DAY TWO

Shortsighted decisions cost long-range destinies.

DAY THREE

It's never just a little pot.

DAY FOUR

The pots never ask you to quit. Just to wait.

DAY FIVE

Value the birthright before the pot.

DAY SIX

Esau cried for the blessing. The prodigal came for the Father.

DAY SEVEN

Don't trade your birthright for a little pot.

SEARCH YOUR HEART

1. Which day hit you the hardest, and why that one?
2. Did your tired hour from Day One come this week? What happened?
3. On Day Six you took one step home. What's the next step?

Put the Cards Back

Circle your pot. Then check where each card is today.

PLEASURE What feels good tonight. **Puts on hold:** Faith

OFFENSE The grudge. “I’m done with church people.” **Puts on hold:** Relationship

MONEY The extra shift, the chase. **Puts on hold:** Faith

COMFORT “I’ll come back when things settle down.” **Puts on hold:** Destiny

THE WRONG CROWD People who pull you away from God. **Puts on hold:** Relationship, Destiny

DISTRACTION The screen, the schedule, the busy. **Puts on hold:** Relationship

WHERE ARE YOUR CARDS?

FAITH ☐ still next to a pot ☐ back in the birthright

RELATIONSHIP ☐ still next to a pot ☐ back in the birthright

DESTINY ☐ still next to a pot ☐ back in the birthright

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

HEBREWS 12:2 KJV

Esau despised the birthright for a pot. Jesus despised the shame for the joy set before Him. What you look at decides what you despise.

Don't trade your birthright for a little pot.

A LITTLE POT

*For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world,
and lose his own soul?*

MARK 8:36

Esau didn't lose his future in a war. He lost it at a kitchen table, over a bowl of soup.

Don't trade your birthright for a little pot.

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