Elder Berry Ross April 8, 2018

**Kingdom Birthright or A Bowl of Stew, You Choose**

Genesis 25:19-34

**Key Truth:** God expects us to exercise great care with our Kingdom birthright.

1. The Old Testament birthright Esau forfeited:
2. The birthright was the natural privilege of the firstborn son.
3. The birthright would place him in a responsible position of authority in the family.
4. The birthright he forfeited was the blessing that would have placed him in a special covenant relationship with the Lord.

1. Engaging in the pleasures of this world are obstacles to receiving our Kingdom birthright.
2. Living for instant gratification will rob you of spiritual blessings. Lk. 8:14
3. A covetous soul with a desire for more. Lk. 12:15-21
4. Craving the treasures of this world. 1. Tim. 6:6-10

1. The bowl of stew that will lead to eternal regret. Heb. 6:4-6
2. Refusing to accept the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.
3. Tasting Christ with no regard for His goodness.
4. Turning from Christ to pursue lustful desires.
5. The New Testament birthright believers inherit are plentiful:
6. Salvation. Rm. 10:8-11
7. Fellowship with Christ and fellow believers. Mk. 10:30
8. A priestly partnership with Jesus Christ. Jn. 12:25-26
9. A position of authority given by Christ. Lk. 19:17
10. Spiritual blessings. Ephesians 1:3

**Taking It Beyond the Walls:** Don’t contemplate another day settling for a bowl of stew. Choose today to live for Jesus and fulfill your Kingdom birthright.

**CONNECTION GROUP HOMEWORK**

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Read Romans 9:1-12: The name Jacob literally means “He takes by the heal” or “he cheats.” Does it seem fair that Jacob was chosen over Esau to be the one through whom God would establish His covenant? What does that tell us about God’s grace?

Read Genesis 27:1-28:9: What tactics did Jacob use to get the blessing from Isaac?

What did Isaac’s blessing mean? Why was it powerful?

What do Jacob’s actions reveal about his true character? About his relationship with God at this point in his life?

What did the lack of blessing lead Esau to do?

Read Genesis 32:22-32: How do you think this encounter changed Jacob’s view of and relationship with God?

What is so appealing about self-reliance? Why is it dishonoring to God?

How does Jacob’s new name reflect both who Jacob was and who he would be in the future?