

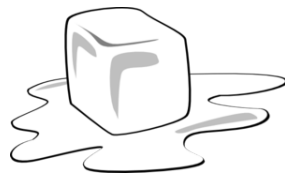
Home Group Study Guide

Sermon Title: Don't Take the Beans

Sermon Series: Be You

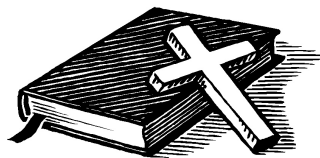
Sermon Scripture: Genesis 25:24-34

Sermon Synopsis: There are a lot of identities stolen each and every day in our nation. All of us have an identity in Christ. But it cannot be stolen. It can only be given away. At one point of Jacob's life, Esau gives up his birthright for a bowl of beans that Jacob had cooked. When we are famished, we more easily fall into temptation of trading in eternal blessings for immediate satisfaction. Don't make that trade. Don't give away your eternal identity. If you've ever made that trade in the past, the good news is that our God will welcome us back.



ICEBREAKER

Pastor Zach's son, Brady, recently traded a Pokémon card for a light-up fidget spinner (apparently this was quite a good trade!). Tell the group about the best trade and the worst trade that you've ever made!



THINK & READ

Have someone read Genesis 25:24-34.

Based on verse 27, Pastor Zach said, “Beware of mistaking growth for maturity.” What’s the difference between growing up and maturing?

What are you doing to “mature” physically, emotionally, and spiritually?

Verse 28 says, “Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.” These parents showed major favoritism!

(For parents) Do you love your child(ren) more for what he/she does rather than who he/she is?

(For children—ALL OF US) Do you believe that God loves you as you are or for what you do?

Esau traded his birthright away to Jacob for a bowl of beans. He made a terrible trade!

Share a time you have settled for something immediate (bean stew) when you could have had something better in the end (your birthright).

Pastor Zach has said, “Say ‘No’ to the good things, so that you can say ‘Yes’ to the best things.” What are some specific ways that you settle for “good” things and how does this impact your life?

How do you determine what the “best” things are for you?

Share a time that you have made a temporary fix rather than a permanent one. What is the difference between a temporary fix and a permanent one?

Just as Esau was walking around famished and desperate, sometimes we do that as Christians. We put ourselves in a vulnerable, susceptible state. What are some of the most susceptible, vulnerable times for you?

The acronym H.A.L.T. stands for: Hungry, Angry, Lonely, or Tired. It serves as a reminder that when we are in these states, the best decisions might not be made. Who or what do you turn to when things are stressful?

How do others (spouse/friends/family members) speak truth into your life and help you when you're in the danger zone?

Esau traded away his birthright. What is your understanding of your spiritual birthright and inheritance from God? How does this impact your life choices?

Have you ever "sold" your birthright (your place, position, purpose or purity) in your relationships with others?

Have you ever "sold" your birthright (your place, position, purpose, or purity) in your relationship with God?

Unlike identities in this world, Pastor Zach said that your heavenly identity cannot be stolen or taken away by anyone, not even the devil himself. You have a spiritual inheritance that will never spoil or fade. It cannot be taken away. However, it can be given away or transferred.

If you've ever "sold" your birthright away, know now that you can always come back to your heavenly Father. And just as the Prodigal Son was welcomed back with open arms (Luke 15:22-24), so is anyone who comes back to God.

Finally, remember that Jesus Christ transferred His very birthright to you and me. Jesus, the firstborn of God, the only begotten of the Father, will give you your birthright back. He'll give you your identity back, if you'll just believe. Just believe. Just believe. He'll give it back. He bought it. He paid for it. He bled for it. He'll give it back. He'll give it back. Thank you Jesus.



PRAYER

Take individual prayer requests from those your Home Group. Then take some time to pray out loud for the people in your Home Group.