

Unlocking The Mystery & Treasure Of My Inheritance

Lesson #12 Stew Now Or Inheritance Later

Heb. 11:32-40 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: ³³ who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again.

Others were tortured, Not Accepting Deliverance, that They Might Obtain A Better Resurrection. ³⁶ Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, *in dens* and caves of the earth. ³⁹ And all these, having obtained a good testimony Through Faith, did not receive the promise, ⁴⁰ God having Provided Something Better For Us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Heb. 11:13 These All Died In Faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, Embraced Them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us that many have gone through life enduring trials that seem insurmountable. They lived holy lives of faith and trust yet never saw God's promises fulfilled in their lifetime. We expect God's promise of blessing will happen in our lifetime, but the real blessing comes after we leave this earthly tent. Trust in God allows us to live at peace in present difficulties with hope built on the future.

Our lives are here one moment and gone the next. The Bible compares our lifespan with:

1. Grass Isaiah 40:6-8 2. Vapor James 4:14 3. Breath Ps. 39:5

While most of us will intellectually acknowledge the fleeting nature of life, the way we live our lives doesn't match our beliefs. Sadly, many of us are more excited about things that will not matter in eternity. Life is a process of trading one thing for another. We're all given a certain amount of time and ability which we exchange to gain other things, such as money, food, shelter, relationships, leisure, and pleasure. It is very easy to fritter away your life, exchanging your time and abilities for things that really don't matter, or even worse, for things that cause you and others great harm. Sometimes the bad bargain you make is so pivotal it affects the rest of your life, and even has eternal consequences. It costs far more than it provides.

Matthew Henry: "It ought to be the business of every day to prepare for our last day."

Martin Luther declared, "There are two days on my calendar—'Today' and 'That Day.'"

Consider: A day is coming when all that will really matter is how I lived my life for the sake of eternity. Every day you're trading your life- your soul- for something. *For what?*

When it's all over and you stand before Jesus Christ, what will you have to show for it?

I Pet. 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a Living Hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To An Inheritance Incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are being guarded (garrisoned) by God's power through [your] faith [till you fully inherit that final] salvation that is ready to be revealed [for you] in the last time.

The Inheritance Involving the Birthright with Firstborn Sons

Birthright in the NT is from the Greek: prototokia: The rights of the Firstborn

1. The rights of firstborn sons consist of a plurality of rights, which are inherited rights.
2. The rights of the firstborn sons in the Jewish culture in the OT consisted of 3 things.
 - a. Ruler of the household under the Father
 - b. Priest of the family
 - c. Receive a Double Portion of the Father's estate [Deut. 21:17]

Key Point #1 EVERY Jewish firstborn son was in line to receive this threefold inheritance; but, according to that which God has revealed in His Word, this inheritance was FORFEITABLE.

- a. The firstborn rights and privileges were provisionally given at their birth.

Point #2 The Positional Standing as a firstborn son did not itself guarantee the inheritance would be received.

- a. The right to the inheritance was his; but he could lose it.

Point #3 A firstborn son, through rebellious actions, could FORFEIT his firstborn rights.

ALL the sons are heirs, but only those who met the conditions of the firstborn achieved the elevated status and authority and retained their inheritance.

NT references to something conditional in the future life of a believer may reflect the OT distinction between the 1st born son who retained his inheritance and those like Esau who did not. Consider: The justified believers who suffer with Him [Rom. 8:17]

who endure [II Tim. 2:15] and who overcome [Revelation], are the firstborn sons.

The Dispensation of Promise Provides Us Graphic Examples of Forfeiting An Inheritance

1. This dispensation started with Abraham and Isaac as his firstborn. [God rejected Ishmael.]
2. Isaac now has the twins, Esau [firstborn] and Jacob.

Consider: I believe this is an Old Testament type or pattern of a believer losing his inheritance in the coming kingdom. Consider Esau's situation seriously. [I Cor. 10:11]

The Rights Of The Firstborn

One of the Sternest Warnings of the New Testament is found in Hebrews 12:12-29. The writer challenges the readers to pursue sanctification and cautions that without it no one will "see the Lord." In view of other references in Scripture to "seeing the Lord," it is best to understand the phrase as referring to a "deeper walk with the Lord."

1. Matthew 5:8 the peacemakers will "see God," i.e., they will really know Him and walk with Him.
2. In Job 42:5 Job came to "see" God as a result of his trial.

[The meaning is that he came to know Him more deeply and intimately.]

Then the writer warns them regarding the loss of their inheritance rights:

He uses Esau to illustrate the fact the saved can lose their firstborn inheritance rights.

Isaac's Firstborn & The Birthright Negotiations: Will It Be Stew Or Inheritance? Gen.25:31-34

But Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright as of this day." ³² And Esau said, "Look, I *am* about to die; so what *is* this birthright to me?" ³³ Then Jacob said, "Swear to me as of this day." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴ And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus Esau despised *his* birthright.

1. Esau, the firstborn of Isaac, Forfeited His Birthright to his younger brother, Jacob, to satisfy a [The Flesh] fleshly gratification. For A SINGLE MEAL

2. He didn't have a second thought about his actions.

He did it, it felt good, and only much later did he come to regret it.

3. He Despised His Birthright: The Greek word in the Septuagint of the OT translated "despised" implies that Esau regarded the birthright as a paltry, a mere trifle.

a. He sold his rights as the firstborn thinking it had no real value.

b. Later, when IT WAS TOO LATE, Esau realized the value of that which he had sold.

Note: He DID NOT forfeit his relationship to his father.

At the end of his life, Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau regarding their future. [Heb. 11:20]

Consider: Satan is constantly tempting us to forfeit the eternal riches of our spiritual inheritance in Christ for the pleasure of immediate gratification. The devil can rob us of our birthright through uncontrollable desires because he tempts us at the point of our needs.

a. Remember Eve in the garden?

Gen. 3:1-6

b. Ananias & Sapphira with the money through the sale of a plot of land

Acts 5:1-10

c. Judas with the 30 pieces of silver?

John 13:2

PTL: A blessing or strength we have in the Lord [as we abide in Him] is the enablement of the Holy Spirit to control our appetites and desires.

Consider: Though the forfeiture of the birthright did not affect Esau's sonship, it greatly affected forever the blessings surrounding his relationship to Isaac as the firstborn son.

1. Jacob received the blessing of the firstborn in the family.

2. THEN, Esau Realized The Value of that which he had forfeited.

3. Esau then tried to retrieve the birthright. Pleaded with his father

4. Esau sought to effect a change of mind on the part of the father.

5. Scripture says "he found no place of repentance." [to change one's mind]

6. Esau was unable To Get His Father To Change His Mind.

7. Esau cried out to his father: Have you but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father.

Gen. 27:38 Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

Note: The way this is worded in the Hebrew shows that Esau was literally beside himself with grief at this time. He apparently came into full realization of the value of the birthright and realized the finality of his previous actions and decisions.

8. Heb. 12:17 For you know that even when he afterward desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected; for he found no place for a change of mind in his father, though he sought it diligently with tears.

Conclusion: 1. The father could NOT change his mind.

2. The birthright had been forfeited.

3. The blessing had been bestowed upon Jacob.

4. The rights belonging to the firstborn were now beyond Esau's grasp forever.

Justified Believers Fully Parallel The Description Of Esau.

1. We have a sonship inheritance [unconditional] and are positioned for an Inheritance From The Lord. [inheritance of the firstborn] [Col. 1; Eph. 1-3]

2. As children of God we are positioned to be firstborn sons and possess the rights of the firstborn.

3. We do not have to earn these rights. They are given to us through the grace of God.

4. However, we must value these rights and our inheritance.

5. Even though we cannot forfeit eternal life [sonship inheritance], we can forfeit our firstborn rights. [inheritance from the Lord]

Warning To Believers: *Do Not Live Your Life Like Esau.*

The Judgment Seat Of Christ awaits! It Is Possible To Lose Your Inheritance!

Heb. 12:16-17 Lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.

[Profane = one who by word or conduct Shows No Reverence for what is sacred.]

For you know afterward, when he WANTED TO INHERIT [kleronomeo] the blessings, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

[It is Too Late For Tears and DILIGENCE.]

Heb 4:11 Let us therefore Be DILIGENT To Enter That Rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

Heb. 6:11-12 And we desire that each one of you show the same DILIGENCE to the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹² that you Do Not Become Sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience INHERIT the promises.

Heb. 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God

MUST BELIEVE that He is, and that He Is A Rewarder Of Those Who Diligently Seek Him.

Truth: A justified believer can be denied his inheritance rights.

In I Cor. 3:10-15, Paul reveals that at the Judgment Seat of Christ, our works will be revealed by "fire." Some will survive with very little to carry into the kingdom.

I Cor. 3:15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Question: What good is this inheritance If I Have To Wait For It?

Remember: Satan is constantly tempting us to forfeit the eternal riches of our spiritual inheritance in Christ for the pleasure of immediate gratification.

1. The carnal Christian who goes after the trinkets of this world in order to satisfy his life now is selling his birthright for the future. Responding to the desires of the flesh:
By type or example, we are told to "be dead to the flesh."
2. The Christian who has no interest or desire to grow and mature into the fullness of Christ places no value on his future inheritance in the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ.
I am saved, going to heaven and no need for more spiritual concerns.
3. "Esau Christians" will find no changing of the "Father's mind" at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
4. "Esau Christians" despise [no value; mere trifle] their birthright inheritance - an inheritance worth untold and eternal riches.
5. If I'm living for good feelings in the short run, I'm missing God's purpose for my life.
I'm selling my spiritual firstborn inheritance for a mess of pottage.
6. This pile of beans is dangerous! It is any temptation to gratify the "feelings" of the immediate moment in a way that shows I "despise" the promises of the living God for my future.
7. I believe there will be many tears of remorse and regret at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Consider: My most precious "inheritance from the Lord" is mine by His grace. Yet from time to time, I exchange it for a miserable bowl of lentils. What is my bowl of lentils today?

1. My Behavior Reveals My Values: Is there a desire in my life causing me to treat my inheritance as a mere trifle?
2. It is very easy to be seduced by and become preoccupied by the demands of this life, our worries and fears, than to FOCUS on the things above.
3. I must learn to recognize when to sacrifice, wait, endure, overcome and put up with hardships so I can gain the far more worthy PRIZE.
4. I must measure my choices against the ETERNAL REWARDS of God's birthright promises.

John Wesley's Mother: "Whatever weakens your reason, or impairs the tenderness of your conscience, or obscures the sense of your God, or takes off the relish of spiritual things; that thing is SIN to you, however innocent it may be in itself"

Admonition: Do Not Let Anyone Cheat You - Diligently Seek Him

Col. 2:4, 8, 18 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, Let no one cheat you of your reward,

II Pet. 1:10-11 Therefore, brethren, be even MORE DILIGENT to make your call and elections sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so An Entrance will be supplied to you ABUNDANTLY into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

THESE THINGS: II Pet. 1:5-9 But also for This Very Reason, Giving All Diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, YOU WILL BE NEITHER BARREN NOR UNFRUITFUL in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

This Very Reason: II Pet. 1:3-4 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

Heb. 12:1-2 Therefore then, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [who have borne testimony to the Truth], let us strip off and throw aside every encumbrance (unnecessary weight) and that sin which so readily (deftly and cleverly) clings to *and* entangles us, and let us run with patient endurance *and* steady *and* active persistence the appointed course of the race that is set before us,² Looking away [from all that will distract] to Jesus, Who is the Leader *and* the Source of our faith [giving the first incentive for our belief] and is also its Finisher [bringing it to maturity and perfection]. He, for the joy [of obtaining the prize] that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising *and* ignoring the shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Spiritual Staying Power Look within and be distressed. Look back and be defeated. Look around and be distracted. Look ahead and be dismayed.
LOOK UP AND BE DELIVERED!

Col. 3:1-2 If then you have been raised with Christ [to a new life, thus sharing His resurrection from the dead], aim at *and* seek the [rich, eternal treasures] that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.² And set your minds and keep them set on what is above (the higher things), not on the things that are on the earth.