

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Thank you so much for visiting our website! Here is an excerpt of my notes from Pastor A.J.'s sermon, "WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU?"

We pray this Message will bless you the way it blessed us! Please come back again next week for more from "LaKesha's Pen" with another inspiring message from our Pastor.

Yours in Christ,

LaKesha Johnson-Lewis

"WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU?"

Genesis 25:24-34

(Never make a permanent decision based on temporary feelings!)

In this life you will have to make decisions. There is no way to avoid having to make choices in life. The devil will try to persuade you to go against God's plans but he can't make you do anything! In **Genesis 25**, you read the story of two brothers, twins in fact. Now Jacob was born second but he was grasping his brother's heel. Esau was the first born of the two sons and in their tradition the eldest brother received double the blessing. This blessing was about 75% of the inheritance and Jacob would have received 25%. Esau sold his birthright his 75% for a bowl of stew.

Can God Trust You?

In this world many people mistake growth verses maturity! Does your character match where you are in life? Have you suffered from “arrested development” concerning your level of maturity? Are you a grown up physically but you are still behaving childishly? Can God trust you? Have you allowed your appetites, those lustful cravings be your decision maker? Esau was a hunter and he found himself doing what he normally did but this time he came up empty handed. Because of the lack in his life he found himself in a vulnerable position. You have to be careful when you are experiencing lack or deficit in your life because the desire to fill what is missing may lead you down the wrong path. When you find yourself in this sort of position you may end up seeking advice from the wrong people. Esau went to the person who should’ve had his back but didn’t. Esau had other options, it stated there were tents. That means there was other places he could have gone for help. Instead of making a decision from his intense hunger he should have sought God for what he needed. Jesus said it this way “**Man shall not live by bread alone.**” (See **Matthew 4:4** and **Luke 4:4**). Sometimes you may have to adjust your focus. Esau was so consumed by his hunger that he could not see the other options around him. In situations where you become desperate you allow unsatisfied appetites to become exaggerated emotions. When this occurs you have a tendency to lower your standards and accept anything to fill this desire. Like Esau you find yourself suffering from tunnel vision. He found himself seeking something from a person who couldn’t give him what he wanted; at least not without strings being attached. It is important that we seek God desperately all of the time. You should be meditating on the Word of God at all times. This will help you from being led astray by other voices or other appetites. You won’t be hungry if you are full on the Word.

Talk vs. Act

If you don’t eat anything you will eat everything! You need the Word of God in you every day. This will strengthen the voice of your inner man, your spirit. Your spirit is what directly communicates with the Spirit of God. Many people today suffer from low living because they have lived a life without God. This is a high price to pay to live low. You must train yourself not to be hungry/thirsty. It takes time with God to be able to discern His voice above that of your own. Satan will often try to pose himself as an angel of light. (See **Corinthians 11:14**) The only way to be able to discern who is leading you is by knowing God on a deeper level.

As you study His Word you will begin to learn and understand His character and His heart towards you. You will gain trust. Don't be fooled by momentary fulfillment! Many people are searching for something that only God can satisfy. In the Word of God you will learn how to keep your emotions in check. Emotions can be good but they are not to be trusted. Your trust should be in God. Emotions will lead you down the road of temptation causing you to give up what you wanted later on in order to fulfill a desire now. Like purchasing items on credit instead of waiting until you have the money. Allow the moment to pass. When you give time for God to move He will show you how to respond instead of always reacting.

Are you constantly finding yourself in the place of Esau? What have you given away for a "bowl of stew"? Have you compromised your integrity, your praise or maybe a relationship? Living a life without God or living a life based on your cravings will lead you down the wrong path. Don't sell what has a high value to receive something cheap and fleeting. The birthright was a blessing. It was Esau's God given inheritance and God has an inheritance for you! Your blessing can be doubled if you choose or you can give it away or have it transferred to another party. The devil wants you to give it away. This is because he can't curse what God has blessed so he looks for a willing participant. (See **1 Peter 5:8**) He wants you to be so distracted by your circumstances that you believe you have no other options available to you. He wants you to devalue your birthright and believe you will never receive it. He knows there is peace-**John 14:27**; strength-**Isaiah 40:31**; and provision-**Philippians 4:19** in the blessing. Instead he wants you to trade that all in for a bowl of worry, doubt, impatience, instant gratification and self-confidence. The great news is if you have found yourself giving over your birthright your birthright can be restored! Jesus died to restore your birthright. All of us give up our birthright at some point but the blood of Christ has completely and totally restored us. All you have to do is ask Him into your heart and He will wash you and make you like new again. Accept Him as the perfect sacrifice for your sins and allow Him to be the leader of your life and He will show you the way into the many blessings He has instore for you! Be Blessed!