



BELIEVERS CHAPEL

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The Sermons of S. Lewis Johnson

Genesis 25:26-34; Hebrews 12:14-17

“Esau's Profane Act”

TRANSCRIPT

Will you turn with me now to Genesis chapter 25? And we continue our exposition of the Book of Genesis and read as our Scripture reading this morning the last few verses of chapter 25, and then I would like to turn to Hebrews chapter 12 and read a verse or two there about Esau. Genesis chapter 25 and verse 27, we read:

"When the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the field, but Jacob was a peaceful man, living in tents. Now, Isaac loved Esau because he had a taste for game, but Rebekah loved Jacob. When Jacob had cooked stew, Esau came in from the field and he was famished; and Esau said to Jacob, 'Please let me have a swallow of that red stuff there, for I am famished.' Therefore, his name was called Edom; (Edom means red. So, that was Esau's second name. Esau meant the "hairy one," Edom red.) But, Jacob said, 'First sell me your birthright.' And Esau said, 'Behold, I am about to die; so of what use is the birthright to me?' And Jacob said, 'First swear to me;' so he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then, Jacob gave Esau a bread and lentil stew; and he ate and drank, and rose and went on his way. Thus, Esau despised his birthright."

Now, turn with me to Hebrews chapter 12 and listen as I read verses 14 through 17 of chapter 12 of Hebrews and here we have an inspired comment upon the story of Esau in the Book of Genesis, dealing not only with the sale of the birthright, but also the lost blessing about which we shall read later in the Book of Genesis. Hebrews chapter 12, verse 14 through verse 17, this is one short paragraph:

"Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God. (I think the authorized version renders it, although I did not look this up, this is memory, “fails of the grace of God.” Now, that is a reference to Esau. You can see he is leading up to this and so we are justified in saying that it is Esau who failed of the grace of God.) That no root of bitterness springing up cause trouble and by it many be defiled; that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau.” (The Authorized Version renders this, “no fornicator, or profane person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal” and there is a little bit of stress in the Greek text at this point on the word translated “single” here, one morsel of bread, just one morsel of bread, not a series of meals but a single meal.) “For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.”

Now, there are two ways to understand that last statement. “No place for repentance.” It might be understood of Esau’s seeking repentance himself, but it is much more likely that what it means is that he found no place for a repentance on Isaac’s part, for Isaac had blessed Jacob and had not blessed Esau and so the change of mind that he sought was a change of mind in Isaac that he might receive the blessing but, he found no place for a change of mind in Isaac though he sought for it with tears for Isaac, though his own faith had evidently deteriorated, had nevertheless, recognized in what had happened when he was deceived by Rebekah and Jacob the hand of God, and recognizing the hand of God and the providence of God in the blessing of Jacob when he thought

he was blessing Esau. Isaac at least had enough spirituality to stick by the blessing that had taken place. Consequently, Esau found no place for change of mind in Isaac though he sought it carefully with tears. And the bitter cry of Esau seeking for the blessing, after it had been stolen from him, is one of the tragedies of the Book of Genesis.

May the Lord bless this reading of his word.

The subject for this morning in the exposition of the Book of the Genesis is Esau’s profane act. F. B. Meyer, in his little commentary on the life of Jacob, begins one of his chapters by saying, “Brothers were these two men, yes, twin brothers, but brothers could not differ more widely. Before their birth, their difference was foretold. At their birth it was evident. From their birth, it began to broaden and increase. The linked hands of the brothers reaching across the tiny reel of their earliest infancy were soon parted as the stream of life widened between them. And they passed to their destiny along opposite banks.”

It is true that no two brothers could be more different, it would seem, than Esau and Jacob. These other opposites, however, illustrate some crucial aspects of human life. They represent two views of life. In the case of Esau, there is the man of the world. In the case of Jacob, there is the quiet man. Esau is the man whose god was his belly, to use Paul’s expression in Philippians chapter 3, and “Jacob is the man whose God was Jehovah,” to use one of the psalmist’s expressions.

Alexander White who has also written a chapter on the life of Esau has said that “Esau lost his birthright with all its blessings largely through his lack of imagination.” But what the Scotsman meant by imagination is not what we mean when we use the term today. He meant that the things that are unseen, the things that are eternal, were the things that Esau had no imagination of. On the other hand, Jacob, with all of his frailties and all of his faults and all of his crookedness, was a man who at least had one priority right. He was a man who trusted in Jehovah. The result was that Esau was a man who looked at things purely from the standpoint of the material in the present and the visible but Jacob is a man who had a different attitude.

And that is the second thing about the two men that is crucial, their two attitudes to life. Esau’s attitude was the attitude of unbelief. It was the attitude of unconcern. He is the living illustration of “the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God for they are foolishness to him; neither can he know them for they are spiritually discerned and Esau had evidently no comprehension of spiritual things and no desire for spiritual things.” He is the man of whom the writer of the Epistle to the Hebrew speaks in terms of “fornicator and profane or godless man.” He is the earthbound man. He is the man whose vision is only so far as things on this earth.

On the other hand, Jacob is the man who has faith, with all of his frailties, and faith is something that pleases God, the Scriptures say “without faith it is impossible to please Him.” And Jacob, though there were many other things that he did not yet have, had that fundamental thing, faith. He was not a profane man.

Profane, incidentally, in the sense in which the Bible uses it, is a term that expresses that which is secular. Profane itself is derived from the Latin word *fanum* which means “temple” and the Latin prepositional prefix *pro* which means “before,” and so it referred to the plot of ground out in front of the temple, not within the temple and therefore, it signified things that were secular, things that were not dedicated to God. And so the profane man may be a very personable and likeable kind of man, but he is a man who does not have any fundamental relationship to spiritual things; he is always profane. Jacob was a man of faith. So far as their everyday life was concerned, you might have preferred the other one to Jacob, but nevertheless there was a fundamental commitment which later manifested itself in growth in grace.

And then I think these two illustrate the two destinies of life. There are those who pass through this human life with us with whom we rub shoulders, with whom we talk, with whom we may live, and as a matter of fact, with whom we may live in the closest of relationship, husband and wife, and still when the time of death comes, the two pass to different destinies.

Esau is a man who failed of the grace of God. He fell short of the grace of God. And on the other hand, there is Jacob, who for nine months at least, was with Esau in the womb of Rebekah.

Jacob, the man of faith, rough; he led a very tortuous kind of life, but nevertheless, he ultimately found his way into the presence of God. And furthermore, being a recipient of the sanctifying ministry of the Holy Spirit, this crooked man, this man who so often sought to run ahead of God it seemed, near the end of his life, manifests the growth in grace by blessing Joseph and saying, “The God before whom I followed as Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day, the Angel who has redeemed me from all evil; bless the lads.” Now, that is real growth in grace. And that came from the fundamental commitment that had been implanted within him by God in the beginning; he was interested in the things of the Lord. So here we have the two men Jacob and Esau, and I ought to ask a question of you as we begin, “In whose footsteps are you following?”

Now, the passage begins with a note concerning the family situation and this story incidentally is written in a very remarkable way. There is an extraordinary solidity and precision of style manifested in this brief little account. One of the commentators has said “in this, Moses occasionally surpasses even Dante.” Now, the two sons are spoken of in the 27th verse of the 25th chapter, where we read, “When the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the field, but Jacob was a peaceful man, living in tents.”

Esau and Jacob were as opposite as the nations that they beget. Esau was the father of Edom, enemies of the children of Israel. Jacob is the man whose name becomes Israel and after whom the children of Israel are named, but these two men are as different as those nations that they fathered. In the case of Esau we have the rugged, cunning hunter. Incidentally, there is nothing wrong with hunting of course, but for you hunters in the field, I want to pass on a choice bit of biblical learning for you. There are only two hunters that I can remember who are mentioned in the Bible and both of these men are mentioned as judged by God. One of them is Nimrod. He was a rebel against the Lord. And the other is Esau, this cunning hunter. And Esau is set forth in Scripture as one who was totally indifferent to the fundamental facts of spiritual things.

Esau loved excitement, but he was an undisciplined man. He was the very proverb of manly courage, no doubt. Isaac loved him; he loved him not only because of the things that he received on his table. As a matter of fact, we learn later on Rebekah could cook goat’s meat so well that Esau could not tell the difference between goat and venison. So it was not simply that that caused Esau to be beloved by Isaac. He was a man’s kind of man. He was the ruggedest, the brawniest, the shaggiest of all the rugged, brawny, shaggy creatures of the field and of the forest, among whom he lived and died. He had an eye like an eagle’s, no doubt. His ear never slept. His foot took the firmest hold of the ground. His hand was full of all of the kinds of manly skills that men and others admire. No doubt, he was an expert with his bow and arrow.

Furthermore, he was the pride of the whole of the family because when he came home in the afternoon he usually came home with some provisions. He was a prince among men and, no doubt, a prime favorite both of men and women and even the children. And it is obvious too that his personality was an appealing kind of personality for in spite of the tragedy that affected him, later on it is Esau who behaves in a most personable way with Jacob, his brother, who had, he thought, stolen his blessing and bought his birthright from him. But in spite of all of this that one says about Esau that is good, he was, nevertheless a heathen, pagan man. All the time, he was more an animal than he was a man, in the truest sense. He was all body and no soul and spirit, all the time a profane person who failed of the grace of God.

It is sadly true, but it is possible for individuals who are very appealing, very personable, very admirable in the things that we men and women admire, but nevertheless, it is very possible for that person to be just what Esau was, a fornicator and a godless man. It is one of the sad tragedies of the word of God that we do have that. The cunning hunter.

I heard of a minister once who went hunting and he should have known better, I guess, but anyway, he went hunting, and suddenly, a big bear got after him. He took off so fast and his coat was flying in the breeze, so straight, that you could have played checkers on the back of it. And he was desperate. He was looking for something that he might escape from the bear. The bear was

gaining on him, and finally, he saw a tree but the lowest limb was 20 feet from the ground. He made a frantic leap for it and missed. However, he grabbed it on the way back. [Laughter] That is my hunting story for the day.

Now notice the two parents. We read in verse 28. “Now, Isaac loved Esau, because he had a taste for game.” The text reads in the Hebrew, “Because the game was in his mouth.” But Rebekah loved Jacob. Now, here is an example of the conflict and tragedy of preferential treatment of children. It often happens, you know, even in the 20th Century, that there is preferential treatment of children. Isaac loved Esau. Isaac’s faith was, at this time, evidently, decaying, but Jacob is the one upon whom Rebekah had set her heart.

There was something that was fundamentally similar between Rebekah and Jacob and, as far as I can tell, we must assume in the light of the later things that we read in chapter 27 and following, that it was the spiritual kinship that she felt with Jacob. She remembered the prophecy that “the older shall serve the younger” and so consequently, she understood that Jacob was ultimately to have the birthright. It was the prophecy of the word of God. Now, she did not, of course, have the faith and trust to rest in the promise of God; she wanted to scheme a little and connive a little in order to obtain the birthright and the blessing for Jacob. She loved Jacob, however, because of the spiritual relationship that existed between them. And this is an illustration of the fact, men, that it is always good to stand on the woman’s side, because this is a woman’s world in which we live. It is not a man’s world. Now, in case you wonder about that, think of this. When a man is born, what do they say? “How is his mother?” And then when a man is married, what do they say? “Wasn’t she a lovely bride?” And then when a man dies, what do they say? “How much did he leave her?” [Laughter] So, you can see that, from beginning to end, this is a woman’s world.

Now, Jacob and Rebekah had this thing between them. Rebekah loved Jacob, and Jacob was under the influence of Rebekah. It is great to have a mother’s Christian influence in one’s life too. I do not want to make fun of that, because many men have been, in the human side at least, blessed by having a faithful mother. Evangelistic singer F. A. Mills, who died some years ago, had a

wonderful Christian mother. She raised her children in a Christian home and when she died, Mr. Mills sang at her funeral. And in the song that he sang, there was this stanza, “O mother, when I think of thee/ ‘tis but a step to Calvary/ Thy gentle hand upon my brow/ Is leading me to Jesus now.” It is great to have a Christian mother. And for you Christian mothers, one of your greatest tasks in life, the greatest, no doubt, is to minister to your husband and to your children in such a way that they remember you spiritually. No doubt, Jacob never forgot the influence of Rebekah upon him. And though she was...had a preference for him, there was still a great deal of good that came from it.

Well, the sale of the birthright is a rather prosaic incident. It seems so inconsequential until you read in the New Testament that this incident is fraught with far-reaching consequences. One day, Esau just happened to come in when Jacob was cooking a stew. Now, you can see from this that Jacob was a mature man, that is, the meaning of that is, that he did the things that he was called to do with more maturity than Esau. Esau was the cunning hunter; Jacob was the mature man, that is, he was a man who tended the flocks and the herds in the way that he should have and he also dwelled in tents, so he was around the house a great deal. Some have said he was a mother’s boy. Well, there is no real indication of that in the word, so we will just let that drop.

We know this, that he was a man who spent time around the tent, and furthermore, we know he could cook. So it just happened, so it just happened. Last week, incidentally, someone stood up in the audience after the meeting and said to a friend that she had evidently brought to the meeting, since I had said a few words about the sovereign grace of God, I have been known to do that occasionally, she turned to her friend and said, “He occasionally gets off on that subject.” She doesn't know I heard the conversation, but then she went on and said something that I thought was rather interesting, as it was reported to me, she said “He occasionally gets off on that subject.” But then she said, “When I first started coming here, I used to believe that other way but now I believe this way.” So getting off on that subject occasionally does some good.

Now, here, it just so happened -- I am speaking as an Arminian -- it just so happened that Esau had been out hunting and when he came back home, there was Jacob cooking some lentil stew. Red lentils on Jacob's stove. Now, I understand that this is still a very savory kind of dish. I am not interested in it myself, [laughter] except for one thing, it does contain rice and I do like rice being a Charlestonian. You know, Charlestonians eat rice and worship their ancestors, and especially eating rice is good. But, it was made of onions, and garlic and rice and then mixed with some form of meat, like lamb or a beef and it no doubt was a dish that smelled wonderfully to Esau as he came in from the field.

The Hebrew text says “he was faint.” We often say that "I am faint with hunger," not only famished, not only hungry, but weak from hunger. And so as he comes in, there is Jacob. Now, it is just of course a happening you understand, but when Esau arrives, he sees this and smells this that Jacob is doing and in the 30th verse, he makes this very vivid request for something to eat. He says, “Let me gulp!” that Hebrew word means almost gulp. “Let me gulp! Let me swallow some of this red stuff there,” literally of *the red*, this red and it is not surprising incidentally that he repeats himself because you know when people do get in a hurry, they do tend to repeat themselves. So, he was on a hurry, he wanted something to eat and he says. “Let me swallow some of this red stuff there,” and the Bible adds, Moses adds at that point. Therefore, his name was called “Edom” or red. He got his name from this incident and throughout his life this incident attached itself to Esau.

Well, Jacob is a very intelligent man. I would never have liked to have made a bargain with Jacob. I know that people say, of course, they have even used the expression he “Jewed” me out of this. But, we will see later on that Laban “Gentiled” Jacob out of a lot too. So, we should not think of Jacob as the only crooked man in the Bible; it actually belongs to human nature.

Now, these are not the first words about the birthright. It is very clear they had discussed this previously. Everybody knew the prophecy that the older should serve the younger. Jacob, no doubt, had approached Esau at other times but now he saw his opportunity; Esau was weak. And it might be that at this point he would sell the birthright.

Now, what is involved in the birthright? Well, of course, there was a double portion of the inheritance, that is, there was worldly prosperity involved in it perhaps but that is not the real thing that interested Jacob nor was it the thing that made much of a difference with Esau because he became a very wealthy man. Later on, he had a retinue of 400 warriors who served him, so he became a wealthy, influential man. It was, however, the thing that made the person who possessed the birthright, the priestly head of his family. He became the person who dealt with the Lord, and when the Lord spoke, He spoke to the person who possessed the birthright. And so the person who possessed the birthright was the mediator between God and the family.

The person who possessed the birthright was the one who had the privilege of communion with the Lord. It was he who was the spiritual leader. It was he who was the priest of the family. So, Jacob thought a great deal of this. It was not worldly prosperity that he was interested in nor was it immunity from trials. Because you had the birthright, it did not mean that therefore you are going to have an easy life. As a matter of fact, it was just the opposite. He wanted to stand, however, in the spiritual line of Abraham and Isaac, and especially, in the Messianic line. To be on the line that would ultimately lead to the Messiah. He wanted that spiritual relationship. He wanted to be in the spiritual aristocracy. He wanted to be a true pilgrim in every sense on the way to eternity. And so, he wanted the birthright. It was an expression of a desire that God had put in his heart for a fellowship with God in a most intimate way. So, seeing his opportunity, he said: “First sell me your birthright. Sell me your birthright today.”

Well, Esau gives a frivolous reply, which indicates that he really was not interested in spiritual things at all. To him, he is maybe the first hunter who invented the expression of “a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush,” because he responds in this frivolous way, “I am about to die, so of what use then is the birthright to me?” Well, Jacob wants to nail it down so that there is no question about it. And he said, “Swear to me today. First, swear to me.”

Now, Jacob’s methods are not admirable. After all, God had promised him the birthright. He could have waited, but Jacob is not sanctified yet. He has the right adjustment in his life; the

priorities of the Lord are there. He is fundamentally committed to the Lord God, but he is not yet sanctified. So, we should not expect him to live in the way that he will live later. He wants to nail it down now, so in the power of the flesh, he will have this birthright. “First, swear to me.” But on the other hand, while we criticize Jacob, notice Esau. While Jacob’s methods are not admirable, his interests were. On the other hand, in the case of Esau, his interests are very, very bad. Listen to what he says or listen to what he does. So, he swore and he sold him his birthright. The solemnity of the matter was no deterrent to a hungry Esau. One morsel of bread, a single meal, is all the value that he puts on the place of special communion with God.

And my dear friends sitting in the audience, one wonders what is the valuation that we place on communion with God when spiritual things are secondary and tertiary in our lives? You men, your businesses stand first often in your life. You women, the interests of your children, their social well-being frequently stand higher than the interests of the word of God. We are playing the same old game of Esau again when that happens; Esau, the godless, profane man. He swears, he sells his birthright, and we read the tragic sentence in verse 34, “Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew,” and then notice the last of that sentence. “He ate, he drank, he rose, he went his way”. There is something even in the expression of Moses that suggests carnality, so carnal, that one feels, cannot help but feel some contempt for Esau, for the likeness with which he took the privilege of fellowship with God.

Now, occasionally when we study Jacob and Esau, we are inclined to think, let me put it this way, we are inclined to have sympathy with Esau rather than Jacob. I believe that most of us feel that way. We read through the account and we cannot help but have our heartstrings tugged at by the tragedy of the life of Esau. And when we see Jacob scheming and conniving, this crooked man, we tend to want to condemn Jacob and admire Esau and feel compassion for him. But notice God’s view of Esau. Look at that last sentence, “Thus, Esau despised his birthright.” So, this is God’s view of this handsome man with the ruddy skin and the luxuriant hair, the man of the open country, the rugged lover of the chase. He despised his birthright. Scripture has no word of condemnation

for Jacob at all, but there is unequivocal condemnation of Esau. And when we read in the New Testament that he is called a fornicator and a profane man, who for one morsel of bread, sold his birthright, we have God’s view of this personable, attractive, manly kind of man with the generous spirit, but who deep down within was totally empty of spiritual concern.

Now, there are many lessons in this story. In Esau, we see, in addition to what we have already seen, that little things often reveal the real nature of a person. It is not the average kind of experience, but it is sometimes that unusual little thing that gives you a clue to the character of an individual and this little incident of the cooking of the lentil stew and the combination of the chase revealed the kind of man that Esau was. The trifle showed that he was empty spiritually. In Jacob, of course, we see the fundamental necessity of commitment to God. Now, he should have waited but nevertheless, there was the fundamental commitment.

I would like to return to what I began with for the remaining moments of our study. I began by saying that this incident reveals two views of life; it does. There is one view of life in which the things that are visible, material are made the predominant interest. And the other view of life is the view of life in which the things that are eternal, the things that are lasting, the things that are invisible are made the things of special interest. Carlyle has an interesting paragraph in which he describes Esau. He says, “He is that kind of man of whom we are in the habit of charitably saying that he is nobody’s enemy but his own.” But, in truth, he is God’s enemy because he wastes the splendid manhood which God has given him. Passionate, impatient, impulsive, incapable of looking before him, refusing to estimate the worth of anything which does not immediately appeal to his senses, preferring the animal to the spiritual, he is rightly called a ‘profane person.’ Alas! While the body is so broad and brawny, must the soul lie blinded, dwarfed, stupefied, almost annihilated?”

Two friends were talking. One spoke to the other about a good man who left a sizeable estate. The other said: “What a pity that the man left his money behind when he might have sent it on before him. He is not likely to ever hear again of his money now.” The Lord Jesus said something about things like this. He said, “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, but

lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.” It is possible to send our treasure on ahead of us. And Jacob is the kind of man who did that. Esau was the kind of man who left everything here.

Furthermore, this incident reveals two attitudes of life. There is the attitude of unbelief. In the case of Esau, he had the opportunities that Jacob had. He had the knowledge of spiritual things so far as we know. They were twins, they were brought up together, and they were together constantly. Mother fed one and the other; you can just see Rebekah, just like this, twins. Twins, someone has said, is the living proof there is no such thing as free will. But, you can see that these two constantly together had equal opportunities, but the attitudes that they had were different. In the case of Esau, emptiness, blindness, obtuseness, stubbornness with respect to spiritual things. In the case of Jacob, oh there was the crookedness in the scheming and the conniving, but nevertheless, there was the fundamental commitment.

Ultimately, of course, today it comes down to the relationship that we bear to the cross of Jesus Christ. May I ask you? Where is your fundamental commitment? Is it to the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and the forgiveness of sins that we receive through faith in Him who died for sinners? Is that your fundamental trust? Is that really expressive of the fundamental commitment of your life or is it something else? Is it perhaps that you think that you can get to heaven by the things that you do? Do you not realize that when you think that you can get to heaven by the things that you do that you are slandering the God of Heaven who has given Jesus Christ for sinners?

Do you think, for one moment, that anything yet that you can do to obtain eternal life can compare with what the Scriptures say about you as a sinner, under guilt and condemnation and headed for a Christ-less eternity and that the Lord Jesus has offered the atoning sacrifice for sins? Don't you see that if it were possible that righteousness could come by the law, there would be no necessity for the death of Jesus Christ? In fact, as we said in the studies in Galatians, the cross of Christ would be the greatest blunder that this world has ever seen and God would be the one who had committed it. Christ died for the simple reason that there is no salvation apart from the blood

that was shed. It was a necessity. If there is to be any salvation, that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, should die for sinners.

One of the most famous of the Scottish Evangelists of the 20th Century was John McNeil. He is now with the Lord. He ministered in Scotland. He ministered in the United States, even in Birmingham, Alabama, in the church at which I was a member before I came to Dallas, the South Highland Presbyterian Church there. Mr. McNeil was a man who traveled all around. He was an evangelist primarily, and he was known as that, but he did stay in places for a little while and generally left because evangelists usually run out of messages after a while. They are not used to staying in one place. They are very good for a while, but then they have go on. That is a characteristic of evangelists. I speak as a Bible teacher, of course.

But anyway, Mr. McNeil once got in a bunker and he was on the golf course. This is said of him: He got in a bunker on a golf course and he was flailing away and unable to get out of this giant bunker and one of his preacher friends said to the other preacher friend with whom they were playing, “Well, Mr. McNeil has finally got a steady job.” Well, anyway, he was a very godly man and he was an evangelist who served with the British forces in World War I. He went to France where he did duty in the Young Men’s Christian Association when that association was truly Christian. His biographer Alexander Gammie tells an incident that happened when he landed in France. The commanding general wanted him to come in as the man who would be ministering to the men to give him some instruction. And one of the things the commanding general said to Mr. McNeil was, “Now, I want you to instruct the men that when they go over the top, that if they should die, if they should fall from the enemy’s fire, that is going to be all right for them in the next world because they died for their country.” Mr. McNeil is said to have replied to the general, “General, if one of your men under your command were to win the Victoria Cross for valor, and I were to belittle the deed by which the declaration was won, you would not like it. And I want to tell you, general, that you are cheapening Jesus Christ’s sacrifice.” And according to Mr. Gammie, the conversation ended right

there and he was never in his preaching required to say anything other than the fact that if one does not believe in Jesus Christ, there is no salvation.

And finally, there are two destinies of life. Just think of it, one mess of pottage. Sometimes one little glass of some kind of liquid is the thing that makes a difference. One moment of unbridled passion, one forbidden look, one forbidden act, in this case, one look at one mess of pottage, but oh, the bitter cries of regret that followed. So, I say to you my dear friends in the audience, I will not be able to preach to you forever, and some of you are very young. I want you to remember that there are only two views of life. There are only two attitudes that we may have to life and there are only two destinies. And the one road that leads to eternal life is the road that has been made possible by the blood that Jesus Christ shed on Calvary’s cross.

So, I urge you, as an ambassador of the Lord Jesus Christ, to recognize your sin and guilt and condemnation, and therefore, your need and to turn from trust in whatever you maybe trusting in other than Him. Come to Christ. Put your trust in Him. By the grace of God, respond to the ministry of the Holy Spirit in conviction and by that ministry of the Holy Spirit, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. And thou shalt be saved. May God speak to your heart. Remember Esau, the profane man. May God help you to turn from that kind of life. Shall we stand for the benediction?

[Prayer] We are grateful to Thee, Father, for the privilege of proclaiming the word of God. And we do ask that through the Holy Spirit, Thou will speak to the hearts of those who may be here who do not know the Lord Jesus Christ. O God, deliver us from the destiny of Esau. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, bring to faith, repentance, and eternal life. May grace, mercy and peace be ours through the Lord Jesus. We pray in His name. Amen.