**Show Me Your Better Ways Jesus**

**By Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Philippians 4:4-7**

**Wednesday Evening**

**September 30, 2020**

**Philippians 4:4-7**

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

**We are living in the “now” generation. Whatever we want, we can often find a way to get it immediately.**

Saints, this could be good if it’s a legitimate and pressing necessity, but it can also be dangerous if what we desire is not something God wants for us. The problem with “have it now” thinking is that we don’t pause to consider the consequences of our actions.

One of Satan’s tactics is to keep our minds on the pleasures and benefits of whatever he’s offering us. How much better it would be if we submitted our desires to the Lord and waited on Him to provide what He knows is best.

**Psalm 27:11-14**

11 Teach me Your way, O LORD, And lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies. 12 Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries; For false witnesses have risen against me, And such as breathe out violence.

13 I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living. 14 Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!

Saints, Abraham’s son Isaac had twin sons with his wife, Rebekah. Esau was the firstborn and grew up to become a skillful hunter, but Jacob was a peaceful man who preferred staying home.

One day when Jacob had cooked stew, Esau came in from hunting and said, “Please let me have a swallow of that red stuff there, for I am famished.” Jacob told Esau if he’d swear to sell him his birthright, he would let him have some stew.

Saints, many people today are living for the moment and are willing to pay any price to get what they want. This is the situation we see in the story of Jacob and Esau recorded in Genesis on how each brother responded to this situation teaches us an essential lesson.

**Genesis 25:25-34**

24 So when her days were fulfilled for her to give birth, indeed there were twins in her womb. 25 And the first came out red. He was like a hairy garment all over; so they called his name Esau. 26 Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

27 So the boys grew. And Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but Jacob was a mild man, dwelling in tents. 28 And Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob. 29 Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he was weary.

30 And Esau said to Jacob, "Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary." Therefore his name was called Edom. 31 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.

Listen Saints, in a Hebrew family, the birthright was a very precious possession of the eldest son, which granted him the place of headship, honor, and authority in the family, as well as most of the father’s property after his death.

Yet Esau was willing to trade away this privilege for some soup. His choice demonstrated that he despised his birthright. Esau’s mindset is a perfect picture of our society today, which tends to think only of the present without considering the future consequences.

**When do we sacrifice our future for the pleasure of the moment?**

**1. When we Disregard the Sacred Values in Life**

God gave us the Ten Commandments as a law by which we are to live for our good, but if we disregard them, we’ll end up suffering the consequences in the future. Thou shalt not Murder is one!

**2. When we Insist on Immediate Fulfillment of our Desires**

David and Samson are two biblical examples of this. King David yielded to his lust for Bathsheba and resorted to the murder of her husband when she became pregnant. The pleasure of a moment yielded painful circumstances for the rest of his life.

Samson was given supernatural strength by God to fight the Philistines, but his desire for Delilah led him to foolishly tell her that the secret of his great strength was in his hair.

As a result, she cut his hair, and the Philistines overpowered him, bound him, blinded him, and threw him in prison to work as a grinder. He wrecked and ruined his life by seeking his own desires instead of obeying the Lord.

**3. When our Focus is on the Worldly rather than the Eternal**

Saints, we tend to think we can pursue whatever we want because no one, including God, will notice. We forget that His principles never fail. Whatever we sow now, we will reap in the future.

**Galatians 6:6-10**

6 Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. 7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

**(When do we sacrifice our future for the pleasure of the moment?)**

**4. When we make Irrevocable decisions in periods of Physical and Emotional weakness**

Saints, this is exactly what Esau did. In a moment of fatigue and exhaustion, he forgot about the future and traded away his promised position of authority and power in the family for a bowl of soup. Later when he wanted it back, it was too late. He had lost his birthright forever. Sin cannot be hidden from God. Its satisfaction is only temporary and regrets always follow.

**Romans 12:1-2**

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

**5. When we have no Respect for Spiritual Things**

**1 Samuel 15:26**

“But Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel."

**1 Samuel 16:14**

“But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him”

**6. When we Fail to Examine the possible Consequences of our Actions**

Judas walked with Jesus as one of His disciples because he thought Jesus would overthrow Rome, liberate Israel, and rule the world. When he didn’t get what he wanted, he betrayed Jesus and suffered eternal condemnation.

Saints, anytime we sin in seeking our desires, consequences will follow. Instead of rushing ahead to fulfill our longings, we should consider God’s will and timing for our lives.

We must guard against being like Esau who sacrificed his future for a moment’s pleasure. His bowl was filled with soup, but we fill ours with all sorts of sins instead of seeking the only One who can truly satisfy our souls.

**What is in our bowl today that carries disastrous consequences?**

**Alcohol**

We can buy and drink all we want and feel good for a while, but the results of becoming enslaved to it are difficult and long-lasting.

**1 Corinthians 6:9-10**

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

**Prejudice**

Passing judgment on others simply because you don’t relate to them never pleases God.

**Proverbs 10:18**

“Whoever hides hatred has lying lips, And whoever spreads slander is a fool.”

**Drugs**

No one ever intends to become addicted to drugs, but the sought-after pleasure and relief soon turn into bondage.

**Revelation 21:8**

“But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

**Bitterness**

It begins with anger and grows into a more destructive emotion that affects our entire being.

**Ephesians 4:31-32**

31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

**Adultery**

Although it’s often glamorized in our culture, adultery destroys individuals and families.

**Hebrews 13:4**

“Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”

**Fornication**

Not believing God to live Holy and Sanctified. Having a spirit of self to only gratify one self sexually. This unrepented lifestyle sends one to hell.

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**Abortion**

It may seem like a way to escape a difficult situation, but those involved in abortion carry a heavy weight of guilt.

**Exodus 20:13-14**

13 "You shall not murder. 14 "You shall not commit adultery.

**Hatred**

Even if we feel justified in our hatred, it damages our emotions, health, attitudes, and relationships with others and with God.

**Matthew 5:22**

But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.

**Unforgiveness**

The right response to every offense is forgiveness, but harboring unforgiveness is a sin that hinders our lives.

**Matthew 6:14-15**

14 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

**Anger**

When we hold on to anger for wrongs committed against us, our bodies, feelings, spirits, and relationships suffer.

**Ephesians 4:26**

Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,

Saints, to continue in these sins will only result in future suffering. If we find any of these in our lives, we need to ask God to cleanse and forgive us so we can live the life He intends for us.

**In Closing:**

**1. Have you, like Esau, ever traded something precious for a moment’s pleasure?**

**2. What consequences did you experience?**

**3. What lessons did you learn?**

**4. The next time you have a strong desire and the ability to fulfill it, what should you do to ensure that you do not make a foolish decision?**

**5. What spiritual benefits and fruit come from denying ourselves some of our desires?**

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**The Little Video >**

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let's Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace." '**