

COME ON, MAN!
Genesis 25

This had to be the worst negotiation in all human history!

The *Birthright* meant you got a lot more inheritance. As a matter of fact, you received double that of the lesser inheritors; and, of course, there was also the honor and prestige that accompanied your status as firstborn.

Ok, let's consider the deal. Double the inheritance of your rich father ...for... a bowl of red stew. Wow, what a deal! This is such an odd story that it is hard to take it seriously. You must wonder, who would do that? Don't we do this kind of foolish stuff all the time?

**THREE CAUTIONS CONCERNING
THE FATAL MISTAKES WE MAKE IN LIFE**

1. Beware of mistaking growth for maturity or age for wisdom. Genesis 25:27

"*The boys grew up...*" Really!?!? I know this means in stature and age, but, as you see the events of this story unfold, you must ask yourself, "How old are these boys?" "*...and Esau became a skillful hunter...*" Esau got exceptionally good at what he did, but he didn't grow a bit in who he was. So, he ended up forfeiting everything he had, because he grew in skill but not in character.

2. Beware of unsatisfied appetites that become exaggerated emotions. Genesis 25:27-34

To say the least, Esau and Jacob have a complicated home life. I'm sure their family could single-handedly keep a psychiatrist practice in business for years. Esau's first mistake was to disclose his desire for food to Jacob while he was famished. We must be careful who we talk with when we're in a susceptible state of mind. Jacob doesn't necessarily have Esau's best interest at heart. Esau turns from a big hairy man into a little "drama queen."

3. Beware of the temptation to give up what you want most for what you want NOW.

Three things can happen with a *Birthright*. It can be given away, doubled, or transferred to someone else. The one thing that cannot happen is that the *Birthright* be taken away. No one can steal our *Birthright*. We must give it away. God has given us a *Birthright*. We have a tremendous inheritance that has been set aside, purposed, and designed for us (I Peter 1:3-5). We must be diligent to guard that *Birthright* against our own foolishness.