

Genesis 25:1-34 **Selling Your Soul**

Introduction:

When we think about life a large part of it has to do with commerce; which is the interchange of goods and services. We buy and sell things. We place a value on the things we own or somebody else owns. Sometimes we measure our own wealth by listing our liabilities and assets. We discover our net worth when we subtract our liabilities from our assets. When our liabilities are greater than our assets we can easily become discouraged.

Jesus answered the young rich man's question on how to inherit eternal life? He essentially said keep the Law of God perfectly, sell all you own and give it to the poor and come and follow me. The rich young man went away sad and refused to do this for he had much property. The difficulty was that his enormous assets were too much to give up. It became an idol to him. In a very real sense he sold his soul for the sake of his property.

I. The Death of Abraham – v. 1-11

A. A model of Biblical faith – Heb. 11:17-19

B. His faith was an obedient faith: II Peter 1:5-8

1. Moral excellence – Gen. 13,
2. Knowledge – Received fresh revelations from God (Divinity School)
3. Self-Control – Gen. 18
4. Perseverance – Gen. 22:3-9
5. Godliness – Gen. 12:7
6. Brotherly kindness – Gen. 25:1-11
7. Love – I Cor. 13:4-7

II. Abraham's Two Sons v. 12-26

A. Ishmael and Isaac

1. Ishmael – firstborn Gen. 17:20
2. Isaac married when 40 years of age and had the twins when 60 years old.
3. Rebekah – barren (application) – Psa. 37:9
4. “Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.” Rom. 9:10-13

B. All of Grace

1. Grace eliminates boasting – Eph. 2:8,9
2. Grace encourages love – Rom. 5:8
3. Grace encourages evangelism – Matt. 28:19,20

C. Birthrights:

1. What exactly is a birth right? (Deut.21:17, cf. I Chron. 5:1,2;
2. Esau for a single meal sold his inheritance. Turn To: Hebrews 12:14-17
3. Esau's birthright would be given a greater portion of the land- (new earth)
4. Esau's attitude was, “who cares about spiritual wealth of the soul” – v.34

D. Jesus' mandate – death and self-denial – Mark 8:34-38

Application:

1. *Do not let spiritual matters slide as if to say I have more important things to do.*
2. *Beware of the philosophy of this world – Col. 2:8; Prov. 15:21 (same sex marriage?) My encouragement to you, Jesus is still King! – John 18:33-38*
3. *Do not sell your soul. (birthright) C. H Spurgeon “ The perfect seeker”*
 - a. *Leaving the visible church – Rom. 12:4,5*
 - b. *Marrying unbelievers – I Cor. 7:39*
 - c. *Abstaining from the Lord's Supper – I Cor. 11:23-27*

Pastor Nick Imaio

*Reformed Presbyterian Church, 207 South First Street, Fulton, NY 13069
Web Site fultonrpc.org (315-343-1976) 6/28/2015*

