Lentils on the Altar
A timely message by Sis. Desiree Webb

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This past Sabbath morning on Saturday, June 7, 2014 I was invited to Breath of Life Seventh-Day Adventist church located in Inglewood, California, to their once a month early morning worship service. I never knew Breath of Life had an 8am service like this but I am so glad that I attended the service and was actually on time! The praise and worship was divine and the prayer was a blessing but I had the great pleasure to hear an anointed woman and songbird of God Sis. Desiree Webb, deliver a powerful message that I am still ruminating over. The title of the message that the Lord gave her was “Lentils on the Altar.” I tell you after hearing this message, this word that the Lord delivered through her, has shaken me and I can’t even look at another bowl of lentils in the same way. Oh how I wish more of us could have heard this message. My recap will not do it much justice; I pray that the Holy Spirit will bring back to my remembrance as I share this timely message with you.

Sis. Desiree explained that “Lentils on the Altar,” is about how we treat treasure as trash. Esau, who was the older fraternal twin of Jacob, rightfully inherited his birthright being the first-born son but he did not treat his birthright as anything special. The birthright gave the eldest son special privileges and advantages that the other sons did not receive. It gave the first-born son a double portion of the paternal inheritance and (Deuteronomy 21:15-17) judicial authority of his father’s kingdom or whatever it might be. (2 Chronicles 21:1-3) “The birthright also included not only an inheritance of worldly wealth but spiritual pre-eminence. He who received it was to be the priest of his family, and in the line of his posterity the Redeemer of the world would come. On the other hand, there were obligations resting upon the possessor of the birthright. He who should inherit its blessing must devote his life to the service of God. Like Abraham, he must be obedient to the divine requirements. In marriage, in his family relations, in public life, he must consult the will of God.” (Patriarchs and Prophets)

Jacob understood that the birthright was special and treasured what he did not have access to. “Jacob was filled with an unspeakable desire for the privileges which it would confer. It was not the possession of his father’s wealth that he craved; the spiritual birthright was the object of his longing. To commune with God
as did righteous Abraham, to offer the sacrifice of atonement for his family, to be the progenitor of the chosen people and of the promised Messiah, and to inherit the immortal possessions embraced in the blessings of the covenant—here were the privileges and honors that kindled his most ardent desires. His mind was ever reaching forward to the future, and seeking to grasp its unseen blessings.” *(Patriarchs and Prophets)*

With the birthright forever on the mind of Jacob it is no wonder that at every opportunity he sought to obtain it. Esau had just come in from hunting all day and said to Jacob, “Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint,” and Jacob said, “Sell me this day your birthright,” and Esau said, “Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me?” Then Jacob said, “Swear to me this day!” and Esau vowed, thereby selling all his eldest-son rights to his younger brother. Then Jacob gave Esau bread, peas, and stew; so he ate and drank and went on about his business, indifferent to the loss of the rights he had thrown away.” *(Genesis 25: 30-34)*

Esau was indifferent to the loss of the rights he had thrown away. He despised, ridiculed and had contempt for his birthright. He treated his inheritance as a means to barter and trade what he wanted to satisfy his thirst and hunger at that moment. “He had no love for devotion, no inclination to a religious life. The requirements that accompanied the spiritual birthright were an unwelcome and even hateful restraint to him. The law of God, which was the condition of the divine covenant with Abraham, was regarded by Esau as a yoke of bondage. Bent on self-indulgence, he desired nothing so much as liberty to do as he pleased. To him power and riches, feasting and reveling, were happiness. He gloriied in the unrestrained freedom of his wild, roving life.” *(Patriarchs and Prophets)*

Sis. Desiree also explained how the lentil soup also represents the many systems of idolatry in our lives. The things we worship and esteem more important than God. It may be money, cars, clothes, or status. But these temporal items can lead many people to trade like Esau treasure for trash to feed their instant gratification.
As a Christian, we have inherited “birthright” status through Jesus Christ who is the first firstborn Son of God. (Romans 8:29, Colossians 1:15, Revelation 1:5) This birthright is important, special and valuable. We should be careful not to imitate Esau who, on impulse, gave away his birthright for a measly bowl of lentils. Esau was foolish and treated his birthright as something common and lost his birthright and the blessings of his father. (Genesis 27) / (Hebrews 12:16-17) We need to guard our spiritual birthright and respect what is holy.

Are you willing to trade your spiritual birthright? Before you answer with a resounding NO. Take inventory of your life and the possessions you have acquired. Think about how you may have traded studying the word of God, spending time with your family and helping someone in need for that shiny new 1967 white classic corvette you just had to buy so now you have to work overtime to pay for it. (Ok I confess the 1967 white classic corvette is my dream car -smile break :)

The lesson is for us to honor and respect the precious things of God. We should never treat what he has for us as anything common. Don’t be like the many people of the world who sell their birthright for shiny fancy things. “Health is sacrificed, the mental faculties are enfeebled, and heaven is forfeited; and all for a mere temporary pleasure, an indulgence at once both weakening and debasing in its character. As Esau awoke to see the folly of his rash exchange when it was too late to recover his loss, so it will be in the day of God with those who have bartered their heirship to heaven for selfish gratifications.” (Patriarchs and Prophets)

I thank my dear Sis. Desiree for her obedience to God and for delivering such a heartfelt and timely message that has reminded me to keep my eye on God instead of the world and to guard my spiritual birthright as treasure!

About Desiree Webb
Desiree Webb is married to Paul Webb. She is a Registered Nurse working in Obstetrical Gynecological. She is a member of Maranatha Seventh-day Adventist Church located at 3569 W. Manchester Blvd, Inglewood, CA where Elder Marvin
Hugley is the Pastor. She is the Minister of Music, youth Sabbath School teacher and she leads out in the Comfort Bearers Grief Ministries. For more information on how to invite Sis. Desiree to speak at your event or program you may email her at marysbabe@gmail.com.

**About Breath of Life Seventh-day Adventist Church** – Elder Michael S. Jenkins, Jr. is the Senior Pastor and Elder Roger Frazier, Ph.D is the Associate Pastor of Breath of Life Seventh-day Adventist Church. Breath of Life is located at 425 South La Brea Avenue, Inglewood, CA 90301. For more information regarding Breath of Life’s once a month early service contact Elder Jerry Warren at jerrywar7@sbcglobal.net.

*Hebrews 12:16-17* Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.
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