

“Selling God for a bowl of soup”

Hebrews 12:14-29

3-20-15

- 1) Pastor Jim shared that there are times in life where we make a decision to trade what is most valuable to us for something that is essentially worthless -- similar to when Esau was willing to sell his inheritance for a bowl of soup (Gen 25:32-34). What reasons do we tend to give for making these kinds of decisions? What are some common excuses?
- 2) We learned that the root cause of decisions that are similar to Esau's is a disdain for God. Merriam Webster's dictionary defines disdain as, "a feeling of strong dislike or disapproval of someone or something you think does not deserve respect". Discuss within your group how it is that we can come to a place where we disdain God? How can we be aware and cautious of this attitude?
- 3) Along with having disdain for or devaluing God, we were also reminded that we can forget what God has done for us. We can forget that in Christ, we are children of God. Read Hebrews 12:5 and Romans 8:17. Reflect as a group on what it means for us to be children of God? Why do we so often forget what God has done for us and how can we strive to remember daily?
- 4) Read Hebrews 12:38-39. In these verses God gives us great hope and direction on how to safeguard our hearts from wandering away from God. He tells us to be thankful and worship Him. What does this look like for you daily? Are you willing to give thanks and worship to God even when life gets hard? When things don't work out? How about giving thanks even when it means missing out on a "bowl of soup"?
- 5) Pastor Jim walked us through an exercise to give us time to reflect on what we are grateful for with regard to God; this has also been at the heart of our prayers this Lenten season. With your group we encourage you to make a list of gratitude to God. Think about His forgiveness, how He's changed you, how He's blessed you and others in your life. Think about Jesus, His ministry, the cross, and His resurrection.
- 6) Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. Spend some time praying over the list you have created. Together give thanks and praise to God for who He is, for what He's done, and what He has promised.