

tyrant. All that to-morrow has, he surrenders for this present hunger. Jacob could wait. Esau could not.

33, 34. Jacob said, Swear; to bind the bargain, lest Esau when satisfied might repudiate it. Sold his birthright. The bargain was made. Esau gave his greatest possession away for a trifle. In Hebrews 12: 16 he is called "a profane person." "Profane" is literally "before the fane" or temple and refers to the ground outside a sacred enclosure which was common or public, trodden upon by everybody. To Esau nothing was sacred. Intemperance always surrenders the best. Unto Jacob. The birthright passed from the weakling to the waiter. Esau showed himself unworthy of the promises. Do not fail to see that if Esau paid too much for his pottage, Jacob paid too little for the birthright. God will see that Jacob will not get the birthright simply by a sharp trick. He will try him as he tried Abraham, until he becomes worthy. Esau went his way; not hungry but poor, only a hunter now, no longer an heir of the eternal. Despised his birthright. Esau was a person with no sense of spiritual values.

## PASSION AND PATIENCE

Temperance enables a man to do some things that Esau could not do, even if he was a great hunter and a strong man. It teaches a man to wait. Appetite and desire call out, "Now." In the Interpreter's House in the Pilgrim's Progress, we see the famous children Passion and Patience. Passion will have all his treasure now; Patience is willing to wait. Esau's hunger is so strong that it will not wait one moment. Again it teaches a man to weigh. Esau put the birthright and the mess of pottage in the scales of Now and the birthright seemed the least, and lightest. Temperance teaches that a healthy body, steady nerves, a clear brain, an unshackled soul, an unmortgaged future are a man's birthright that outweigh any present satisfaction that comes through intemperance. The mastery of life belongs to the man who amidst temptations can calmly wait his time and accurately weigh the issues of life.

## LESSON QUESTIONS

27 Who were the two boys? What does "Esau" mean? How did he make his living? What does "a

cunning hunter" mean? What does "Jacob" mean? How did he make his living?

28 Whom did Isaac love most? Why? Where do we read of another favorite son? (Gen. 37: 3.) Whom did Rebekah love the most?

29, 30 What was Jacob cooking one day? What had Esau been doing? How did he feel? What did Esau say to Jacob? What color was the pottage? What name did Esau get from this incident? What were Esau's descendants called? (Gen. 36: 9.)

31, 32 What did Jacob ask Esau to sell? Why did the birthright belong to Esau? What excuse did Esau give for selling it?

33, 34 How did Jacob bind the bargain? Where do we read of some one else making a bad bargain? (Matt. 27: 3.) Does Esau show signs of repenting his bargain after his hunger was satisfied?

## FOR DISCUSSION

1. "Let the buyer look out for himself." Is this a Christian motto?

2. Which was the better man, Jacob or Esau?

## A PRAYER

Father, we have sinned against thee, in thought, in word, and in deed. Thou hast shown us the right path, and we have deliberately chosen the wrong path. Forgive us for our failure to love thee and serve thee. Teach us the joy of yielding to thee all that we are and all that we have, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Prove from Scripture—That strong drink is dangerous.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 33. What is justification? A. Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardoneth all our sins, and accepteth us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

The Question on Missions—5. How do the Vancouver Island Indians get food for themselves? Many of the Indians now work like white people and buy most of their food from the stores. Those who have no money get their food from the plentiful supply of fish, using especially salmon and clams. They are fond, also, of seal and whale fat. Berries are abundant in the summer. Flour and sugar are generally used.

## FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What was a "plain man"? .....

2. Describe the character of Esau. ....

3. What was wrong on Jacob's side of the bargain? .....

4. How was Esau intemperate? .....

SIGN NAME HERE .....