

## Lesson V.

# APPETITE AND GREED—WORLD'S TEMPERANCE SUNDAY

November 3, 1918

**LESSON SETTING**—Rebekah had twin sons, Esau and Jacob. In this lesson we see the prize of birthright, involving the covenant promises of God, lost and won. It is lost by the man who could not control his appetite, and won by the man who could wait his time.

**GOLDEN TEXT**—Every man that striveth in the games is temperate in all things. Now they do it to receive a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.—1 Corinthians 9 : 25 (Rev. Ver.).

\*Memorize Matt. 25 : 31-36.

**THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Genesis 25 : 27-34.

27 And the boys grew : and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field ; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents.

28 And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison : \* but Rebekah loved Jacob.

29 And Jacob sod pottage : and Esau came from the field, and he was faint :

30 And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage ; for I am faint : therefore

**Revised Version**—1 Now Isaac ; \* and Rebekah ; \* in from ; \* the ; \* And Jacob ; \* lentils ; \* so Esau.

was his name called Edom.

31 And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright.

32 And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die : and what profit shall this birthright do to me ?

33 And Jacob said, Swear to me this day ; and he sware unto him ; and he sold his birthright unto Jacob.

34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentils ; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way : \* thus Esau despised his birthright.

## HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—Appetite and greed, Gen. 25 : 27-34.

T.—Appetite and doubtful things, Rom. 14 : 13-23.

W.—Appetite and Christian liberty, 1 Cor. 8 : 1-13.

S.—Appetite and disobedient Israel, Ps. 78 : 29-40.

Th.—Appetite and duty to others, 1 Cor. 10:23-33.

F.—Appetite and chastisement, Heb. 12 : 14-17.

S.—Appetite and murmuring Israel, Num. 11:4-13.

## THE LESSON EXPLAINED

**I. THE TWO BROTHERS.**—27. The boys grew; Esau and Jacob, given in answer to prayer, ch. 25 : 21. Rebekah had been childless for nineteen years. Esau. The name means "ruddy." It was said of David that he was ruddy, 1 Sam. 16 : 12. A cunning hunter. Cunning means originally, not sly or deceitful, but skilful. We say "a cunning workman." Esau knew all about the chase. A man of the field ; lived in the open country. Jacob. The name means one who trips up or supplants. Esau's supplants Esau in the matter of the birthright. A plain man ; describing not disposition or character but rather habit and programme of life. Esau was a rover. Jacob stayed at home. Esau adventured. Jacob plodded. Esau followed an impulse. Jacob followed a purpose. Dwelling in tents ; a herdsman moving his tent from place to place. A different character lay behind the different occupations.

28. Isaac loved Esau ; more than he loved Jacob. He felt more drawn to Esau. It was the attraction of unlike natures. The delicate, retiring father felt drawn to the ruddy, rough, roving son, finding in him what he missed in himself. He did eat of his venison. Esau was kindly as well as rough and ready. He would lay at his father's feet his day's spoil and tell him all the story of the chase. Rebekah ; another case of attrac-

tion of unlikes. Rebekah was bright and vivacious. Jacob was thoughtful and quiet. The partiality of the parents has unhappy results afterwards.

**II. THE SELLING OF THE BIRTHRIGHT.**—29, 30. Jacob sod pottage ; cooking a meal made of lentils or small beans ; still a favorite dish in Palestine.

Came from the field ; from the chase. He was faint ; hungry and exhausted with his exertions. Feed me, I pray thee. "Give me some of that red stuff (the dish was of a yellowish red color) to gulp down,"—no thought of anything but his hunger. Was his name called Edom. Edom means "red." It was a sort of nickname. Esau's descendants were called Edomites.

31, 32. Jacob said. He had been waiting for this opportunity. He makes capital out of his brother's weakness. If Esau is weak, Jacob is not noble at this stage. Sell me this day ; sell me first of all. Thy birthright. Esau was the older by actual birth. All the privileges and rights including the covenant promises belonged to him. At the point to die. He exaggerates his state of hunger. He is hungry, but a long way from

death. A great many people are "about to die," on the slightest provocation. We often say, with as little truth, "I am tired to death." What profit shall this birthright do. Esau's hunger has become a



LENTILS

\* For the recitation of the Scripture Memory Passages in either Part of List IV., a Red Seal is added to the Diploma in Colors given for List III., and a Gold Seal for the verses of the other Part. For Form of Application, apply to Rev. J. C. Robertson, D.D., our General Secretary for Sabbath Schools, Confederation Life Bldg., Toronto.