

DON'T FORGET ABOUT TOMORROW

Genesis 25:19-34

One day a young man Esau decided to go hunting. This was nothing unusual, for Esau was a great hunter and he often went hunting. Esau's father Isaac loved him very much because of his great hunting ability and because he loved the venison that he brought home.

While Esau was busy on his hunt, his brother Jacob was at home. He was preparing a wonderful stew. The smell of that stew was so good that it would just make you hungry smelling it.

After a long day away home, Esau returned very tired and hungry. Of course, he smelled Jacobs's wonderful stew and immediately wanted to eat some. So he went to his brother and said, "Give me some of that stew that you have in the pot, for I am very hungry."

What a surprise when Jacob, "I'll sell you a bowl of my stew for your birthright. Now the birthright was the right of the oldest son in the family to gain a double part of the inheritance. It also gave him the most important place in the family, so it was a very special privilege and of great value to the one who had it.

Esau's answer was even more surprising than what Jacob said, Esau answered Jacob and said, "What good is the birthright if I starve to death? It is all yours! Now give me my stew."

Then Jacob gave Esau the bowl of stew and bread, which he immediately ate. As soon as Esau finished the meal he immediately got up and dawned his way. Never once thinking of the great price he had paid for just a meal.

How foolish Esau was to give up something too precious, as his birthright, for just a moment's satisfaction. He would not have starved if he didn't eat immediately. He was just impatient to eat at the exact moment.

Today people are very often just as foolish as Esau. They are willing to ruin their whole life for just a moment's pleasure or a chip thrill. It is so important to look to the future and consider what effect the choice you make today will have on you tomorrow or next year. A wise person will have control over his impulses or sudden desires. He will have rule over his spirit. A fool, on the other hand is driven by his feelings and desires, they rule him ruling them. Esau was ruled by his hunger, he lived for the moment, and paid a terrible price.

The Bible often uses the word temperance or self-control. The Lord teaches us that self-control over our passions is pleasing to him. Each of us struggles against our desire for immediately having what we want, but Jesus can help us bring those desires under control, so that we will not regret making foolish choices.

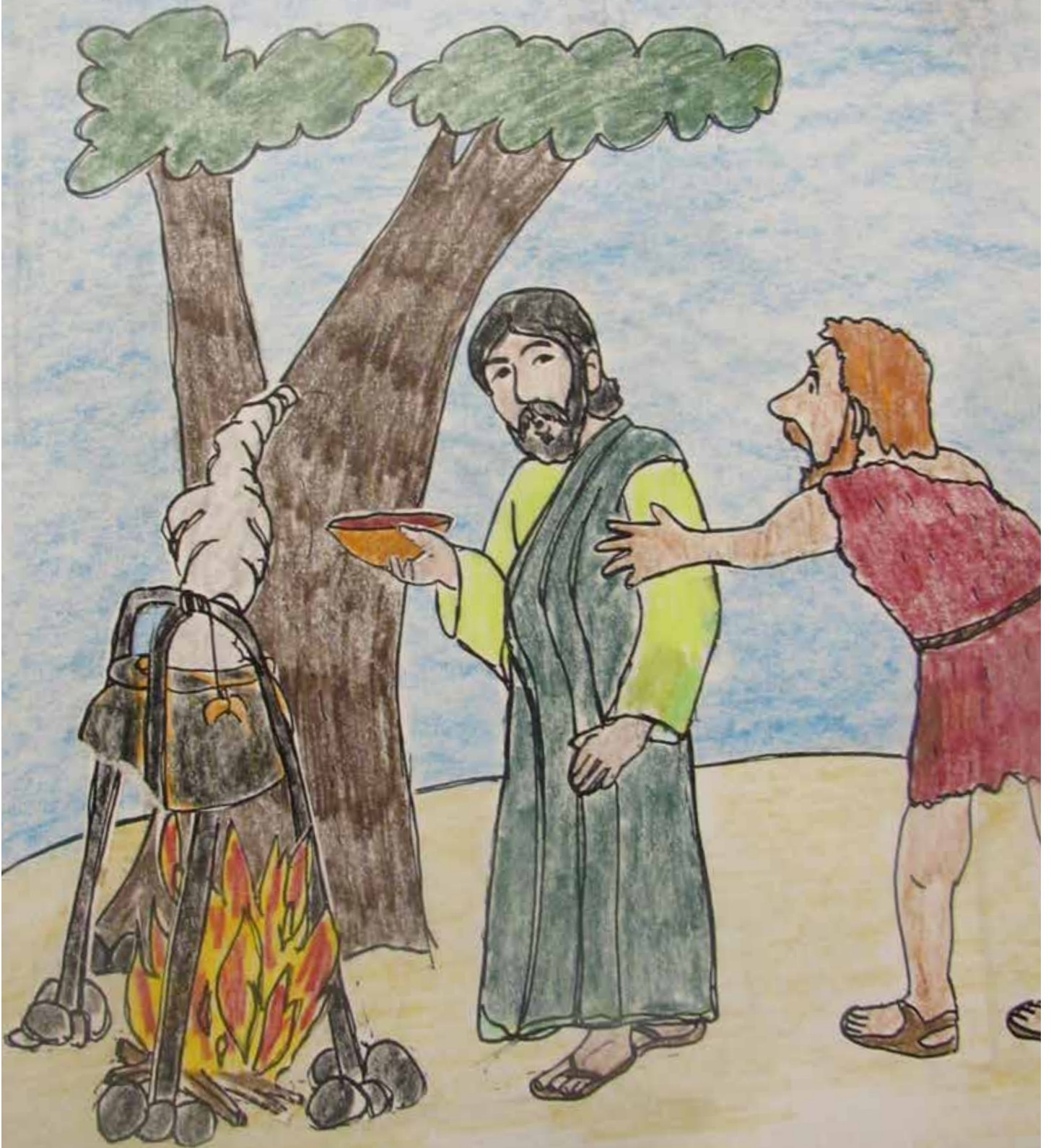
LEARN: but I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means when I have preached to others. I myself should be a castaway.

1 Corinthians 9:24

Paul did not want to be sorry at the end of his life, so he practiced controlling the desires of his body and so must we. For such a difficult thing we need the help of Jesus every moment. For often our anger or our selfishness wants to rule us. Jesus help us rule ourselves, so that we won't be a slave to our body.

But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection:
lest that by any means, when I have preached to others,
I myself should be a castaway.

I Corinthians 9:24



1. Color the scene with Jacob & Esau.
2. Color stew pot and bowl - Cut them out.
3. Paste stew pot in spot marked.
Paste bowl in Jacob's hand.



