

Don't Settle for Superficial

2025-11-17 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Jeremiah 29

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Esau came in from the field hungry and traded his birthright, the double inheritance of the firstborn, for a single bowl of stew. His appetite was louder than his inheritance. Pastor Matt used that trade as the picture of superficial spending. He named four things to stop spending on: status, distraction, money you do not have, and things that add no value. And four to start spending on, including your own formation and God's mission. The bigger claim underneath: everything in your wallet is meant for worship. And the birthright on the table now is not property. It is eternity with God.

To get started

- What is a purchase you regret, and what were you hoping it would do for you?

Looking back at the message

He said there is a time to spend as well as to save. Do not let the group hear only half.

- 1 Appetite can be louder than inheritance. Where does that show up in ordinary spending, yours or anyone's?
- 2 Pastor Matt argued there is a right time to spend, not just a duty to save. What made that surprising to hear in a sermon about money?
- 3 Of the four things to stop spending on, status, distraction, money you do not have, and things that add no value, which one caught you? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Genesis 25:29-34 aloud. Verse 34 is the verdict.

- 4 Read Genesis 25:29-34. What does Esau say about his situation, and what exactly does he trade away?
- 5 Look at the last line of verse 34. What single word does the text use to judge what Esau did?
- 6 Read Matthew 26:6-13. A woman pours out a jar of expensive perfume on Jesus. Why does Jesus call it beautiful when the disciples call it waste?
- 7 Read Luke 14:28-30. Before building a tower, what does Jesus say a person does first?

OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

Nobody should report their spending here. Aim at motive.

- 8 Esau was genuinely hungry. When is an appetite legitimate, and how do you know when it has taken over?
- 9 If everything in your wallet is meant for worship, what would change about one specific purchase this month?
- 10 What would you like to spend more on that you have been avoiding because it feels indulgent?
- 11 Is there something you buy over and over that you already know adds no value? OPTIONAL

The group together

Status spending is largely about other people. That makes it a group topic.

- 12 Spending on status is really about how we want to be seen. Does a group like this make that pressure better or worse?
- 13 What could this group spend on together that would actually add value to someone?
- 14 How do we talk about money in this room without anyone feeling measured?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

If your spending were aimed at worship, what is one thing you would stop buying and one thing you would start?

You might pray about

- For appetites that have been running the decisions
- For those under financial pressure who feel judged by this subject
- For generosity that shows up in the ordinary week
- For a longer view than the next purchase