

Don't Sell Your Soul

Sermon Title: **Don't Sell Your Soul**

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Speaker: **Nathaniel Bronner**

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Nathaniel Bronner: The whole world is not worth your soul.

Female: You are listening to BrothersofTheWord.com. This is the of message titled, "Don't Sell Your Soul" by Nathaniel Bronner. This message is number 5620. That's 5620. Listen to over a thousand free messages on BrothersofTheWord.com.

(Music Playing: 00:00:19 - 00:00:48)

Female: And now for 5620, Don't Sell Your Soul.

Nathaniel Bronner: Welcome to brothers of the word because brother, you need the word. And today's message came from something God's spoke to me. I was actually out of town. I was in a hotel room. And I had recently had an experience with the person on the street who would come up to me for money and many of you have been in that situation sometimes, several times a week. And people will come up to you for money, they're ragged and tattered and usually not smelling the best because they probably haven't had a shower or bath in perhaps, weeks. And I was standing there and I was thinking about the person and of course, if you're doing well, you tend to judge people based on how life is treated you. And I was thinking to myself, "They out to be at working, why don't they have a job and why out on the street and begging and bothering for. Why don't they become productive citizens and why don't they do this, and why don't they do that?" And they could be so much more and I heard God speak this statement, he simply said, "Every soul is priceless." And as he spoke that to me, it shocked me for several reasons, number one, we cannot judge another soul. Every soul is priceless. And you don't know what they have been through nor what they are going through. And if you had been through what they had been through, you might not even be homeless, you might be dead because you just might to commit a suicide and just gave up. You don't know what another person has going through. You cannot judge how another man or woman's life is going until you walk a mile in their shoes and sometimes you might not even be able to make them. Because life from one vantage point may look easy, but when you step in those shoes, is not as easy as you thought. Every soul is priceless.

Jesus said in Matthew 16:26, “For what is the man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” In Luke 15:3, “Then Jesus told them this parable: ‘Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over the one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.’” Every soul is priceless.

There is a commercial about master card. And it will give you different scenarios and it will tell you about buying this and buying that, for that master card and for that master card. And then they’ll get to what they call those as Kodak moments. And it will say, “Priceless.” There are some things that you cannot buy for any amount of money. The soul, what profit is the man to gain the whole world and here’s Jesus gives what’s called technically a “comparative value.” And he fundamentally says, “The whole world is not worth your soul.” He didn’t even have to break it down into numbers. And see, sometimes, we could put prices on things. And there’s some things we will do or be or let happened for a certain amount of money.

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There was once a very wealthy man and everyone knew he was wealthy. He was just close to a billion then. He walked up to this very pretty young woman and he asked her, he said, “Would you sleep with me tonight? For \$10 million?” And she taugt about this, “\$10 million? Do you know what I could do with \$10 million? I’ve never had to work another day in my life. I could buy my parents a brand-new house, a new car, new clothes, seat them on easiest street. \$10 million? For just one night? Oh my goodness.” And she knew this man had hundreds of millions of dollars. She knew the man could make good on his word. So, she looked at, he didn’t look the best in the world but \$10

million is \$10 million. So, she looked at the man and she said, "\$10 million?" he said, "\$10 million". She says, "Yeah. I'll stay the night with you for \$10 million" and then he said, "Well" he said, "Would you do it for \$20.00." She said, "\$20.00? \$20.00?" and she said, "\$20.00? What do you think I am?" he said, "We've already established that. We're just haggling over price." So, there are some things that you just haggling over price. And Jesus said, "There is nothing in the whole world. What profit is the man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" And some of us are haggling over price with some things. I do it if it worth this amount. If I've been, it fitted this. Jesus has nothing as worth your soul. And yet, we don't understand that every soul is priceless. And when we get to that realization, it will change our behavior and we will not sell out our soul, our beliefs, our God, our behavior for any amount of stuff.

There is perhaps one of the greatest stories in the Bible, that deals with selling out something valuable for something that is cheap. And that's the story of Jacob and Esau. And see, one of the greatest tricks of the great deceiver is to make you believe that what you have is worth very little. And what he has is worth a great amount. Nothing is worth your soul. And in Genesis 25:29, it begins with the story of Jacob and Esau. And you've heard this story over and over but I want to use this story to illustrate to you how the deceiver gets so many of us to sell our souls. Something that is absolutely priceless in exchange for something that is cheap. Genesis 25:29, "Now Jacob cooked a stew, and Esau came in from the field and he was weary. And Esau said to Jacob, 'Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary.' Therefore, his name was called Edom. But Jacob said, 'Sell me your birthright as of this day.' And Esau said, 'Look, I am about to die; so, what is this birthright to me?' Then Jacob said, 'Swear to me as of this day.' So, he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus, Esau despised his birthright." And I wanted to just talk with you today, dealing with the end valuable price and value of your soul on seven ways the deceiver gets you to sell your soul. And dealing with Jacob and Esau. And how Jacob got Esau to sell his birthright for a bowl of beans. That's

what lentil soup or lentil stew is. Lentil means beans. He sold it for a bowl of beans. Now, to us, often many times in the Bible, the story seems so stupid and you would say, “Why would a man who had a father, who had all of this wealth, and he was the first-born child. Why would he sell all of that? For a bowl of beans? Just stupid.” And many of you will say this to yourself, “I would never do something like that. I would never be that stupid. I would never sell my birthright for so little. I would not sell something so valuable for something so cheap. I with all of my wisdom, would never do something like that.”

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See, that’s what we would say, but you’re not in the position. Yet, you’ve been in the position, where you given up something valuable for something cheap. And you got to understand every soul is priceless and how the deceiver uses the same seven things that he used on Esau to get us. To give up something priceless for something that is cheap. First thing that Esau did, he was hanging with people who meant him no good in place the low value on his stuff. You see, even though Jacob was his brother, the name Jacob means “supplanter” and Jacob wanted his stuff, so if you’re hanging with folk who want your stuff, you’re going to have a problem sooner or later. Late is that your hanging with your best friend who wants your husband, sooner or later you’re going to have an issue with that. Man, if you’re hanging with dumb-ass friend and he wants your wife, sooner or later, you’re going to have an issue with that and there is an underlying current and usually what you will find, you will find that your associates who you run with, who your friends are, it determines where you go. And you see, if Esau had been hanging with somebody who cherished his birthright, who cherished his position, the person would have never offered him a bowl of soup in exchange for something so valuable because it would have been a true friend. It would’ve been someone who is really interested in his greater welfare, he wouldn’t never done it. So, who you hang with and often some of us are just hanging with some people to just wait on opportunity? They’re just waiting on opportunity to take advantage of you. Or to drag you to their level. Or to do something that will rob you of what you have and it’s important, extremely

important. That's why parents back in the old days and they still do it now but it was more particular back in the old days. They always when you would come home with somebody, they would ask you "Who are there folk?" They didn't want to know who the child was, they wanted to know who the child's parent were because they understood, whoever your associated with the stuff got on you. If you're around someone, smoking cigarettes do you know, is not long before you smell like cigarettes? If you are around someone who smoking and find a little green stuff, do you know what you will smell like? It gets on you. And see, you cannot be around for doing all kind of stuff, without the spirit eventually getting on you. It gets on you externally in the beginning but eventually it starts to get on the inside.

So, first thing, Esau was hanging around with somebody who did not have his greater good at heart who wanted his stuff. And sooner or later figure out the way to get it. Second thing, Esau was weary. How many of you are tired? And sometimes when you are tired, temptation can enter. Because you know, there was a song by Al Grease, I'm tired of being alone. Sometimes guys, when you get tired of being alone, let's see if you're not tired of being alone, temptation can get to you. But when you get to the point when you get so tired of being alone, everything starts looking good to you. Do you understand what I mean? You're tired of being alone. So, when you are weary, when you have been beaten, when your finances had been on to strange so much there is the temptation to do somethings that are dishonest that will sabotage your soul, that you wouldn't normally do but because you're just tired of it. Esau was weary and understand this, even though Esau was weary, even though Jacob wanted his birthright, it was Esau who asked Jacob for the bowl of beans. When you are weary and when you are tired, you start getting weak and you start looking for opportunity to get you out of your weariness. When you are weary, you have to be careful with your soul.

And number three, Jacob made Esau an offer that appealed to his flesh. Temptation is not temptation if you don't want it. There are some things that just can't tip me. It just won't tip me and go, "I don't want him." A land of cocaine

on a table has no temptation to me. I don't want it. I've never been tempted by any in toxic. That's not who am I weakness is. But listen people, just because you not tempted by one thing, don't get smug in that because the devil has your number.

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See, you may not be tempted by that, but you are tempted by something. You know, how that man uses to have as utility belt? And it was always something in that utility belt, the devil has a serious utility belt. So, he may look in Nathaniel Bronner, and he said, "Nathaniel Bronner, I'm not tempted by this cocaine but now this right here. This going to shake the pastor's legs." So, the devil has got something in his utility belt that is tempting to you. And Esau was tempted as a matter of fact and said, "Therefore, he was called Edom." The word Edom really means, "red". The bowl of beans was red, he said, "Let me have some of that red stew." It was called red because when he came out his complexion of his skin was reddy or reddish it was almost as if the bowl of soup was costume tailored to Esau. See, the devil got something manic and just costume tailored to you. And it just looked like nature molded this thing. That the minute you see, you are not tempted by some stuff. So, I'm looking at Prophet Dexter right now. Prophet Dexter is the strong man, very little will tempt Prophet Dexter, but you all say but, now I don't know what it is. But there is something out there. Then when that something gets around Prophet Dexter, Prophet Dexter got to say, "Get behind me Satan." And then when he turned his back, Prophet Dexter might do something. The devil got something. I don't care how strong you are, the devil has something. That is costume tailored for your flesh and for your emotions. So for his red colored skin, he had red soup and when he saw it, there was something about the soup, they would just the best soup in world and no soup in around the face of the earth that was as good this soup and we could just get some of that soup. And in his right mind, it was nothing but a bowl of soup, but weary and fatigue and costume tailored. It looked like it was just something else, couldn't be resisted.

I like sweets, I have a hard time dealing with sweets. Now my wife didn't give a hoot about sweets. What she likes bread and cheese. See Elijah is not a sweet man but he is bread kind of soup. So, everybody got something, everybody has something that makes your flesh respond. The fourth thing, he didn't see a way out. And Esau said, "Look. I am about to die." That's all he could see. Either give me the soup or I'm going to die. Esau could see no way out. Do you think Esau was about to die? You know, but he said, "Look, I'm about to die. Give me the soup. I'm about to die." That is the power of the deception, it makes you look like there's no other alternative. The man would about to die. But he said, "Look, I'm about to die. If I don't get this red soup right now, I'm not going to make it. I'm not just going to make it." Some of you feel like that. And you get to the end of your rope and you feel like, if you just don't do this, if you just don't have this, if you don't take this go, "Lord, I just won't be able to make it." It is a sense of utility and the sense of hopelessness that the enemy can infuse into your soul and you don't think you can survive and you don't think you could make it or you don't see how you're going to get out of this. People folk been on a hundred times worth saving anything you've ever dealt with. That is just the matter of perception and understanding. Esau was not about to die; he was under the deception that made him think that way.

Number five, the thing and the reward that you get for trading in something so valuable is so temporary. How long do you think a bowl of soup last? I mean, how long does a bowl of soup last? A lot of the things that you trade in your soul for. And even if its last years, how many of you all can remember when you were just graduate out in high school but did you have gray hair now? And it gone by in an institute? It's temporary. And you trade in in eternity for something that runs through so fast, you can't hardly even remember the taste of it. It's in and out and when you see who what it looks like coming out, then you realized, I don't trade in this so valuable stuff or some mess. Number six, you don't realize the value of what you're giving up. And Esau said, "Look. I am about to die. So, what is this birthright to me?"

He did not understand the value of the birthright. The first-born child got a double portion of everything the father owned. This man was given of cattle and land huge amount of stuff. All for a silly bowl of beans. If you knew the value of your soul, if you knew the value of your eternal life, you wouldn't trade it for things that are so temporary and so valueless.

And number seven, and this is the part that sort of difficult to see. "And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils then he ate and drank arose and went his way." Now deep thing about this is this. The Bible says, that Jacob gave Esau bread and stew and then Esau ate and drank. He did say Jacob gave him anything to drink. He didn't say Jacob gave him anything to drink. Esau had his own position of what to drink and drink alone can sustain you for a long time. You're going out food for maybe two weeks or four weeks or six weeks, but you can't make it without something to drink for seven days. I say it two weeks because some of you will feel like you're going to die in two weeks if you haven't eaten. But now you really can't go a long long time without food. But water and something to drink, you can only survive about seven days if it's hot perhaps no water in four days so depending. But it didn't say Jacob gave Esau anything to drink. And the significance behind that statement is this, "God has already giving you provisions even when you think you can't make it, even when there is a bowl of soup in front of you, even when the world tries to give you something to make you sell that which is valuable for that which is cheap. God has given you provisions. Drink of him and if you drink of the spirit God has given, it will sustain you, carry you through the temporary time of luck and discomfort. Don't sell your soul for anything not a bowl of beans nor a bottle of gold. Don't sell your soul for anything because it is beyond prize and it is beyond cost. And God has given you enough to make it if you wake up and see the ways of the deceiver and how we're so often tricked out of something valuable in exchange for something so cheap.

We're moving into a season where so much is placed on materialism and the world has sold out spirit for commercialism during this season. It is the busiest and the

most economic time of the year, and we become so frenzied with buying gifts and spending, and we sell our peace and our joy. We end up in debt, broke. Christmas season has the highest rate of suicide of any of the time of the year. Most of the liquor is sold in the Christmas season. Check your stats. In a time that is supposed to be the most joyous, it often has the most misery. Because the world has saw you a bill of good and so what Christmas is all about and you have forgotten the true reason. And even though we know it, we don't practice it. And if we sell the reality, we wouldn't sell the season for a bowl of beans. God is trying to take us to a whole new level and there is a level of peace, there's a level of joy. And people of the world just can't give it to you. It just can't. And it promises us all of this stuff. If I already have fame, I'd be happy. The highest concentration of psychologist since psychiatrist in the U.S. is in the zip code 90210. If I just had fame, and money and power, the highest concentration of mental doctors is 90210. Fought God at all but they've lost the soul.

What profited a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul because if you lose the soul, you're empty on the inside. There's a place inside of the soul that only God can feel. You can't feel it with gold. You can't feel it with adoration from the public and so even the adoration from the public, I told you I was in the Los Angeles as recently, and I saw a couple of movie stars. I saw Leonardo DiCaprio walking down the street. And so many of us in the entertainment we're wished we were as famous as Leonardo DiCaprio. But yet when I saw him walking down the street, he walked just like this literally because he didn't want people to recognize him. Because if they did, they would mob him and my guess is he just wanted a little peace.

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Every time the devil sells you something in exchange for your soul, there's the fine print. And that's why they said the devil is in the details is the fine print. Yeah, I'll give you all this stuff. What I'm not going to tell you is after six months, you're going to be empty. After a year, all of this stuff is going to be valueless to you. One of my big heroes was Jean-Claude Van Damme because I keep my body in

good shape. I was in martial arts heavily. This man was good looking. He was the best fight almost on the planet. His body flexibility, his build was phenomenal. The man, he was rich, he was a movie star. He had all the stuff that was nothing I could think of material that Jean-Claude Van Damme was missing in his life. And then I read, he strung out on drugs. So, I had to ask myself, "What is it?" The man could have any woman he wanted. If he wanted 100 women at night, he could have a woman in his body then good enough to do something with them. So, I'm saying to myself, "This man got it all." Why and what would cause Jean-Claude Van Damme to have to go to drugs? What would cause that? The illusion of a bowl of beans and he sold his soul for all of this worldly stuff. Therefore, a minute, it feels great for a minute you're on top of the world. But it just didn't hold because it becomes empty. Don't let the illusion of the glitz and the glamour ever replaced for God has already given you and the waters of life that you already have. And if you drink of him, you will never thirst again. But if you sell it for the bowl of beans, you'll be hungry in five or six hours if not sooner. And this is the part that we don't understand. And this is how the deceiver gets us to trade something so valuable for something so cheap. Don't make that trade people. Value your soul because every soul is priceless.

We thank you for joining us today at brothers of the word. Don't sell your soul for any price. It belongs to God and it is your reward for eternity. Thank you for joining us today at brothers of the word because brother, you need the word. Amen.

Female:

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