

Character Quest..Excellence

Stephen Foster, who became the first composer of distinctly American popular songs, got his start in the business in a most unusual way. The youngest of nine children, Foster taught himself to play and write music because his parents did not approve of his interest.

Foster's big break in composing came when he was 18. At the time, Foster was a bookkeeper, working for his brother. He had written a song, "Oh Susannah," that was performed for the first time in public. Legend has it that Foster sold the rights to the song for a bottle of whiskey. The song went on to become the most popular tune in the country, adopted as the theme song of the California Gold Rush. Now some say Foster received \$100 for the song. Either way, Foster had sold himself short.

Esau, twin brother of Jacob, did something similar. You remember the story. Tired and hungry, Esau had returned from hunting looking for something to eat. For the price of a bowl of stew, Esau sold his birthright to his younger twin. Esau gave up his inheritance because he was "starving."

At that moment, Esau was only concerned with satisfying his hunger. He lost sight of the "big picture" and sold something of great value for mere stew.

Both of these men fell short of pursuing excellence in their life. They fell short of greatness because they wanted to satisfy their immediate need.

How about you? As an MK are there some decisions that you have made quickly just to satisfy a quick need in your life?

Are you doing your best in school? Are you studying your hardest? Are you being a Godly witness to your friends? It is so easy to take the easy route in life— but God wants us to pursue excellence. He wants us to be the best MKs that we can be.

You might say— I am just young— how can I live my life with excellence today? You have to just be willing to do the best you can with anything that God opens up for you to do. Maybe it is helping your parents, cleaning your room, being a friend to someone, or giving a smile— but only you can help those around you. Today pursue Excellence in your life!

**I will be the Best I can be!
I will use my talents and
abilities for God!**

JACOB
ESAU

*and the very expensive
Bowl of Soup*

**"Make sure that no
one is Immoral or
Godless like
Esau. He traded his
birthright as the
oldest son for
a single meal."
Hebrews 12:16**