

Like Father, Like Son

Genesis 26:1-35

Introduction

I The Covenant Promises Repeated

- A. The Lord **appeared** to Isaac during a famine and said:
 - 1. Don't go down to **Egypt** - Is 31:1; Prov 3:5-6
 - 2. Live and stay in the land where I tell you to live:
 - a. I will be **with** you - Is 41:10
 - b. I will **bless** you - Ps 37:3
- B. The Lord reaffirmed the covenant **promises**
 - 1. I will give these lands to your descendents - Ps 105:8-11
 - 2. I will make your descendents as numerous as the stars
 - 3. Thru your offspring all nations will be **blessed** - Gal 3:6-9
- C. The Lord explains the basis of the promise
 - 1. Because Abraham **obeyed** Me - Gen 22:15-18; Ps 112:1-2
- D. Isaac's response to God's command
 - 1. He **stayed** in Gerar - Jn 14:21

II The Sins Of Abraham Repeated

- A. Isaac repeated his father's sin - Gen 12: 20
 - 1. He **lied** to the men of Gerar about Rebekah - Lev 19:11
 - 2. He chose to fear **man** vs. God - Prov 29:25; Ps 27:1-3
- B. Isaac's sin of deception was exposed
 - 1. Abimelech saw Isaac caressing his wife
 - 2. Abimelech **confronted** Isaac - Gen 20:9-10; Prov 28:13
 - 3. Abimelech gave orders to protect Isaac - Ps 105:12-15
- C. Isaac was **blessed** by the Lord - Gen 24:1
 - 1. He planted crops and reaped a hundredfold
 - 2. He became rich and very wealthy
 - 3. He was blessed with flocks, herds and servants
 - 4. He became the **envy** of the Philistines - Ps 112:10

III The Opposition To God's People Repeated

- A. The Philistines became **hostile** toward Isaac
 - 1. They stopped up all his wells

- 2. They forced Isaac to leave Gerar
- 3. They repeatedly quarreled over Isaac's wells
- B. The Lord **appeared** to Isaac and said:
 - 1. "I am the God of you father Abraham" - Mt 22:32
 - 2. "Do not be **afraid**, for I am with you" - Is 41:10
 - 3. "I will bless you and increase your descendents"
- C. The Philistines requested a treaty
 - 1. They saw **clearly** that the Lord was with Isaac
 - 2. They feared God's blessing on Isaac - Rom 8:31
 - 3. They **swore** an oath confirming the treaty - Prov 16:7

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

- 1. Share a few thoughts about your father. What is/was he like? What do you admire about him? How are you like him?
- 2. God made some remarkable promises to Isaac in verses 3-5. Were they based on Isaac's obedience or on something else? [Hint: 1 Cor 1:26-31, Titus 3:3-6, Rom 9:16 and Eph 2:1-10].
- 3. Compare Gen 12:10-20, 20:1-18 and 26:7-11. What similarities do you see? What differences? How do you account for this repeated pattern of sin? Genetics? Modeling? Instinct?
- 4. How do you respond when you are caught in a sin? 1) Denial? 2) Blaming? 3) Confession and repentance? [Read Prov 28:13]
- 5. Abraham and Isaac's sin of lying and failure to trust God should have been punished, but instead God prospered them. How do you explain this? What does this teach you about God?
- 6. Though God reaffirmed His covenant promises to Isaac in verses 2-5 and 24, the promises weren't fulfilled without opposition from God's enemies. What does this teach you about the Christian life? About your own challenges?
- 7. Read 1 Cor 11:1. Ask the Holy Spirit for the wisdom and power to live a life, like Paul, that can serve as a model for your children or those who follow in the footsteps of your life.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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