

Genesis 26 – The Promise Reaffirmed to Isaac

God is Faithful from Generation to Generation

Section 1: 26:1-6 – Listened and Kept

*⁴I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of the sky, I will give your offspring all these lands, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed by your offspring, ⁵because Abraham **listened to me and kept my mandate, my commands, my statutes, and my instructions.** ⁶So Isaac settled in Gerar.*

James 1:22 (CSB) - *But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*

Verse 5 speaks of Abraham listening and keeping God's mandates, commands, statutes and instructions.

- Mandates: not optional
- Commands: not optional
- Statutes (rule): not optional
- Instructions: not optional

Are you catching the point? God's Word is not movable, changeable or challengeable. Just as Laban and Bethuel said in Genesis 24:50 (CSB): *This is from the Lord; we have no choice in the matter.*

Abraham's faithfulness to God's Word directly impacted Isaac. Isaac received a covenant and a land but most of all...Isaac received a relationship with the Lord.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ How should we respond to the mandates, commands, statutes and instructions found in Scripture?
- ❖ Why should God's Word direct us in everything?

Section 2: 26:7-11 – The Sins of the Father Repeated

⁷When the men of the place asked about his wife, he said, "She is my sister," for he was afraid to say "my wife," thinking, "The men of the place will kill me on account of Rebekah, for she is a beautiful woman."

We saw in verses 1-5 how Abraham's faithfulness impacted Isaac and in verses 7-11 we see how Abraham's sins impacted Isaac.

Isaac repeats the sin of his father. Not only did he copy the sin...he justified it exactly the same way. What we do can and will directly impact the next generation. We do not sin in isolation. Our actions ALWAYS impact others. James 1:19-21

Patient obedience is always better than rash reaction. We must learn to trust God's Word as we navigate life. But how? Practice and repetition. Read then do. Read then do. Read then do. Then at some point the doing will become more natural.

For example: anger. When you find yourself getting angry read and practice James 1:19...*slow to speak, slow to anger*. Breathe...walk away...bite your tongue. It may be hard at first, but the more you apply the slow to speak the more natural it will become.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Would you live differently if you knew your life would be instantly replicated in others?
- ❖ What can we do to intentionally live in such a way to impact others in a positive Christ exalting way?

Section 3: 26:12-22 – The Lord Provides

²²He moved from there and dug another, and they did not quarrel over it. He named it Rehoboth and said, “For now the Lord has made space for us, and we will be fruitful in the land.”

Isaac was determined to live in the land. He was persistent in digging wells. Isaac practiced patient obedience until the Lord provided. Isaac could have easily given up and left the land, but he didn't leave.

Too often we want results and/or our desires met now. We live in a “fast-food” culture where far too often speed matters more than quality. Why is this an issue? Because more times than not...God calls us to wait and be patient. And everything in our culture is screaming at us to do anything but be patient. From credit card debt, divorce, road rage, drive-thru, coaching, job performance, work out plans...modern marketing plans are pushing consumers to desire nothing less than instant gratification. This almost the exact opposite of what Scripture teaches us about following God.

Being a faithful believer is a life long journey. Patient obedience is the theme of the Christian life throughout Scripture. James 5:7-11

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ How important is patience?
- ❖ What are some practical steps we can take to grow in patience?

Section 4: 26:23-25 – God Becomes the God of Isaac

²⁵So he built an altar there, called on the name of the Lord, and pitched his tent there. Isaac's servants also dug a well there.

Isaac called upon the name of the Lord. This phrase keeps appearing throughout the book of Genesis. When someone “*calls upon the name of the Lord*” it indicates a desire for a relationship.

Isaac's only hope was to have a relationship with the Lord. And the same is true for us today...our only hope is a relationship with the Lord. A relationship with the Lord is only possible through Jesus. John 14:6-7

Section 5: 26:26-33 – Another Covenant with Abimelech

²⁸They replied, “We have clearly seen how the Lord has been with you. We think there should be an oath between two parties—between us and you. Let us make a covenant with you: ²⁹You will not harm us, just as we have not harmed you but have done only what was good to you, sending you away in peace. You are now blessed by the Lord.”

Abimelech saw a clear difference in Isaac. A follower of Christ should be easy to pick out from the crowd. How we respond to life, treat others, business dealings, marriages, relationships, etc. Matthew 5:14-16

Section 6: 26:34-35 – Esau: Another Path

³⁴When Esau was forty years old, he took as his wives Judith daughter of Beeri the Hethite, and Basemath daughter of Elon the Hethite. ³⁵They made life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah.

Unlike Isaac...Esau took wives from the Canaanites. Paganism had won the day with Esau. First, he didn't care for the inheritance to be left to him from Abraham and Isaac and now he doesn't care for a godly marriage. Unrepented sin will ALWAYS lead to more sin. John 8:34

Discussion Question:

- ❖ How should a relationship with God impact your attitude and actions?