

Like Father, Like Son 2016-05-08

Gen 26:1-17

Now there was a famine in the land, besides the former famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Gerar to Abimelech king of the Philistines. 2 And the Lord appeared to him and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you. 3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. 4 I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, 5 because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws." 6 So Isaac settled in Gerar. 7 When the men of the place asked him about his wife, he said, "She is my sister," for he feared to say, "My wife," thinking, "lest the men of the place should kill me because of Rebekah," because she was attractive in appearance. 8 When he had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out of a window and saw Isaac laughing with Rebekah his wife. 9 So Abimelech called Isaac and said, "Behold, she is your wife. How then could you say, 'She is my sister'?" Isaac said to him, "Because I thought, 'Lest I die because of her.'" 10 Abimelech said, "What is this you have done to us? One of the people might easily have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us." 11 So Abimelech warned all the people, saying, "Whoever touches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death." 12 And Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. The Lord blessed him, 13 and the man became rich, and gained more and more until he became very wealthy. 14 He had possessions of flocks and herds and many servants, so that the Philistines envied him. 15 (Now the Philistines had stopped and filled with earth all the wells that his father's servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father.) 16 And Abimelech said to Isaac, "Go away from us, for you are much mightier than we." 17 So Isaac departed from there and encamped in the valley of Gerar and settled there.

Isaac is the boring son of a bold father (Abraham), common father of a famous son (Jacob), and unassuming grandpa of a world leader grandson (Joseph).

- He lived longer than any patriarch (180 years) and yet only Gen 26 is devoted exclusively to his life.
 - This is evidence of the positive & negative influence parents have on their children.

God brings His promises to Isaac's mind in midst of trial (famine). 26:1-6, 15:5, 17:7

- This is not a new covenant: God made a covenant with Abraham; and confirmed it with Isaac.
 - It is a picture of grace: Isaac was blessed for being born into a godly household.

The proper response to God's grace is obedience: Isaac stays in Gerar.

- God teaching Isaac He can bless in the midst of impossible circumstances.
 - bad economy, bad marriage, challenging workplace.

1 minute he is trusting in God, and the next minute falls prey to unbelief. Gen 26:7-11, 12:10-13

- Lying was symptomatic of the root sin of unbelief or lack of faith.
 - He did not believe God could protect them under any/every circumstance.

In spite of Isaac's deception, God poured out His blessings upon him. Gen 26:12-21

- Because of the cross, God's grace is greater than our sin. Ps 103:10

But material blessing can also be a source of chastening,

- Wealth in midst of famine made Philistines envious & very angry.
 - They would rather fill in a well (asset in arid land) than allow an ownership claim.

Opposition is humanly explainable, but it is also a divinely ordained means of guidance.

- Isaac: "What would digging out a well have to do with God's purposes?" Gen 26:22-25, Rom 12:18, Pro 21:1

- God was using adversity to guide him where He wanted him - to the promised land.

- If he would have had no hassles, he probably would stay in Gerar all his life.

- God uses adversity to grow us spiritually & move us where He wants us to be

Through adversity Isaac grew in humility/meekness.

- Like his father, he chose peace by giving preference to others. Gen 13:5-8
- Lord caused Isaac's enemies to be at peace with him which led Isaac to worship God in gratitude for His favor/blessings. Gen 26:25

Gen 26 reveals both the positive and the negative influences that our actions have on our children and others.

- Usually "like father, like son" is a negative connotation.
 - Common pattern for children to repeat parents' mistakes/sins.
 - Child of abuser/addict/greedy/dishonest stronger tendency to become likewise.
- Isaac was similar to his father in both bad & good ways.
 - He lied about his wife and yet also sought peace by yielding his rights.
- Set the example you want children and others to follow. 1 Pet 1:15, Rom 13:14, 12:2, Eph 4:22-24, Lk 6:45
 - Not "act" holy/moral when you think someone is looking because always someone watching....especially when you least expect. Abimilech in the window.
- Ask the Lord to transform/change your heart/you & actions will naturally follow.
 - Be obedient & submissive to will of God.
 - When you do sin: Repent, confess sin, etc.
- Place your hope in perfect, sovereign, all-powerful Savior, not the imperfect you.