

Genesis 26 Isaac Finds His Way and His Faith

1. **(1-5)** We cannot act in faith until we hear the word of God. **Romans 10:17** Faith comes from hearing.
 - a. General revelation **Romans 1:20**
 - b. Special revelation (God's Word-Bible, prophecy) 2 Timothy 3:16, **2 Peter 1:20**
 - c. The Word of God is a roadmap to get us to God and if we are not using it to have a deeper relationship with God then we are robbing it of its power to change our lives. **James 1:22-25**
2. **(2-5)** Our faith can only act as a standing platform for our children. They must develop a relationship with God and establish their own faith.
 - a. There was the promise given to Abraham that Isaac inherited, God guarantee that promise, but God gave Isaac his own word.
 - b. Our children make their own choices and our responsibility is to be the example of faith for them **Proverbs 22:6**
 - c. Isaac saw God as the provider on the mountain but he still needed to see God move in his own life
3. **(6-9)** We have the option in life to either operate out of faith or fear **Hebrews 11:13-16**
 - a. "Fear is faith in the devil"...it is believing the lies of the enemy
4. **(8)** We must be weary not only of "loving" the things of the world too much, but even loving the things that God has given us too much.
 - a. Translates- Isaac "He who laughs" was laughing with his wife Rebekah
 - b. Isaac really loved his wife, sometimes our love for the right thing can cause us to act out of fear and not faith.
5. **(11)** God is a lover of irony and will turn the very things we were fearful of harming us to being our protectors **Esther 7:10**
6. **(12 – "Then")** God's promises rest on the work that He has already done and the blessings we reap from them are conditional on our faith **Ephesians 2:8-10**
7. **(12 – "Then")** God doesn't bless our mess
 - a. Doesn't mean: those that aren't bless are in a mess or those who are blessed don't have a mess, or that God won't bless us through a mess
 - i. We cannot base someone's spiritual walk on perceived blessings or lack thereof
 - b. It means that often God is waiting for us to get our stuff together and make sure we are ready for further blessing
 - c. Blessing does not refer to material blessing **Matthew 5:3-10**
8. **(12-14)** Out of famine God brings greater blessing
 - a. God does this to remind us that the blessing is not of our own work but His

9. **(14- 22)** The trials don't always end with God's blessings, because God's blessings are a means for His glory not our comfort
- Isaac is finally being blessed but the covenant of man that was established with his father died with him.
 - He was kicked out of the land and had to rebuild the wells that his father had established.
 - Water in a time of famine was important and with all the resources that Isaac now possess his need was even greater.
10. **(22-25)** God will allow us to walk on a journey of finding the end of ourselves, then work of God can be done in and through our lives. **John 3:30**
- Isaac realized that blessings came from God, but it wasn't until his personal journey came to an end that God finally meet him again.
 - God never abandoned Isaac and God will not abandon us
11. **(26-31)** Others will see God's blessing in our lives and it will be a testimony of His greatness when we step out of the way
- We must be careful to not assume that God's blessings are simply for our indulgence.
 - It is ironic that Abimelech knew the Lord as the Great I Am, but that was not how God introduced Himself to Isaac.
12. **(31-32)** God intends that we use the blessings that He gives to us as blessings to others. **(Verse 4-** "all nations of the earth shall be blessed")
- Isaac could have been so upset that he refuse a covenant with Abimelech, but rather made peace and God blessed him for it.
 - (34-35)** Esau despised his birthright and this leads into the next chapter.