

Sins of the Father & Faith of the Father **Genesis 26:1-33**

Did the story of Isaac's life here in Genesis 26 sound familiar? It should!

Much of Isaac's story is a reflection of his father Abraham's story!

- God's promises were passed down from Abraham to Isaac...
Genesis 26:3-4 – the land, God's presence, offspring, God's blessing
- Abraham's sins were also passed down from father to son.
Numbers 14:18 - A father's iniquity lives on after him in his children!
- Abraham's faith was passed down from father to son as well.
Genesis 26:5 – Because Abraham obeyed God, he gave Isaac a great model of faith to follow! Ex: The experience up on the Mtn. of God.

What is getting passed down in your family – from your parents to you, from you to your children, and then from your children to your grandchildren?

Does this type of reflection give you great hope, or concern, for the future?

Much of what we think, what we say, what we believe, and how we live is learned in the home by observing mom and dad!

No matter if we are talking religion, politics, race, relationships, marriage, etc. Parents are still the number one influence in the lives of their children!

Just consider this story of Isaac and the impact his father had on his actions.

Genesis 26:1 – *“Now there was a famine in the land, besides the former famine that was in the days of Abraham...”*

What did Abraham do during the famine that he experienced in his life?

He went to Egypt because He did not trust in God's providence!

Now years later, another famine hits. How does Isaac respond?

Vs. 1 - *“And Isaac went to Gerar to Abimelech king of the Philistines.”*

Isaac heads to Egypt & turns to the same king (a descendant) his father did!

The action that Abraham took that got him into trouble, was the exact same action Isaac took, walking in his father's footsteps. Can anyone relate?

Vs. 6-8 – *“So Isaac settled in Gerar. 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 b/c of Rebekah,’ b/c she was attractive in appearance.” I think we have heard this story before as well!

Isaac didn't come up with this idea himself, he learned it from his father!

I wonder what Abraham would've thought if he was alive & witnessed this?

Our sins find us out – either in this life or when we stand before God!

Yes, we can be set free from the power of sin, by the grace of God, but the example of how we live out our lives will influence the lives around us!

But hear the good news - just as the sins of the father can be passed down, so to can faith! Yes, faith has to be our own, but it is often shaped by others.

- Abraham trusted God to travel to a foreign land & build a new life there. So to did Isaac trust God when God said to stay in Gerar & settle there.
- Abraham trusted God, when his wife was barren, that God would provide him with not only a son, but with many descendants.
So to did Isaac trust God for a harvest when he planted seeds in the ground - in a barren land (famine)! Vs. 12-13

Isaac must have heard the story numerous times throughout his life of God's great provision to his parents of giving them a child (Isaac himself). Now it was his turn to trust in God's provision even amidst his fears!

Faith was modeled for him, and faith became his response.

There is one more example of Isaac's learned faith from Genesis 26.

Remember what Abraham did when the land couldn't provide for both him & his nephew Lot? He trusted God's provisions and let Lot have 1st choice.

Genesis 26 speaks of the same conflict between Isaac's herdsmen & the herdsmen of Gerar - not enough water/resources to provide for them both.

- What did Isaac do? He moved and dug another well (3x), trusting God.

Abraham, in his life, dug wells that provided water many years later for his son & his descendants to drink from. *Have we dug wells, where streams of living water (Jesus) can flow freely & provide life (eternal) to our children?*

God declared “because Abraham obeyed my voice...” (vs 5) My blessings will pour out upon his offspring. The same can be true for each one of us today as well!

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