



Lesson 54

Lesson 54: What Is Faith? (Part 10) Faith of Isaac

Scripture: Hebrews 11:20

By Faith Isaac . . .

- Just as his father, Abraham, had blessed him, (and as God had blessed Abraham) Isaac blesses his sons with the promises of God.
- *Isaac was certain that God's promises (His will) would, in fact, come about!*
- Isaac lived longer than any of the Patriarchs.
- BUT Scripture allots him the least amount of space!!!
- Abraham, Jacob, and Joseph each have at least 12 chapters each, while Isaac has only 2 ½ chapters.
- Isaac is the least colorful, least dynamic, most passive and one with the **weakest** faith.
- We know more of his failures than his successes!
- **THIS MAKES OUR STATEMENT IN HEBREWS 11:20 MOST CHALLENGING AND MOST INFORMATIVE!!**

Isaac's Sons (Genesis 25:19-34)

- Isaac is sixty years old when Rebekah has twins (20 years after his marriage).
- NOTICE: GOD is sovereign over the wombs of women. (v. 21)
- Rebekah pleads with God about the struggling of the twin in her womb.
- **MEDITATE:** God has already established the twin's destiny **before** they are born and before they can do good or evil. (**Romans 9:10-13**)
- **NOTE:** Isaac loved Esau *because* he ate his game (hunted meat), but Rebekah loved Jacob.
- (v. 29-34) Esau **sells** his birthright!

God Enters into Covenant with Isaac (Genesis 26)

- A famine in the land drives Isaac to the king of the Philistines in Gerar.
- God enters into covenant with Isaac in verses 2-5.
- **NOTICE:** God promises to bless Isaac **because of the obedience of another.** (See verse 5).
- NOTE: God's command in verse 3 – "Sojourn in this land . . ." – "to sojourn" means to reside temporarily.
- **BUT** in verses 6 and 8 Scripture records that Isaac dwelt "a long time"!
- Isaac's faith weakens and he succumbs to the **same** sin as his father.
 - He lies about Rebekah and he becomes **self-centered** being more concern for **his** safety than even Rebekah's. (See v. 7)
- (v. 24) God again blesses Isaac – **again for Abraham's sake – not Isaac's!**

Isaac's Foolishness (Genesis 27)

- Jacob is near death. He calls Esau and wants to bless him.
- It is clear from Scripture that Isaac **knows** of the LORD's blessing on Jacob in 25:23.
- Yet, since Isaac loves Esau he is determined to bless Esau.
- Esau sold his birthright and now believes that he can have it anyway!
- Rebekah overhears Jacob's plans and plans to make sure God's plan is fulfilled. Meditate on this sentence!!!
- Rebekah, Jacob's **mother**, commands her son to **deceive** his father!!
 - Rebekah acts similarly to her mother-in-law – Sarah – in trying to "help" God! (Genesis 16:2)
 - Rebekah may have believed like many modern people – "God helps those who help themselves!"
- Jacob goes along with the **evil** plan!
 - Jacob LIES to his father in verse 19.
 - Jacob LIES to his father again in verse 20.
 - Jacob takes the name of the LORD in vain in verse 20.
 - Jacob LIES again to his father in verse 24.
- The **WHOLE FAMILY** is acting **SINFULLY**.
 - The father and son are trying to accomplish the **WRONG** thing in the **WRONG** way.
 - The mother and son are trying to accomplish the **RIGHT** thing in the **WRONG** way.
- **WHERE IS THE FAITH IN THIS?**
- Isaac has doubts of who is standing near him in his tent – he does not take the time to make an thorough investigation.
- Isaac **blesses** Jacob with the blessing he had planned for Esau!! (vv. 27-29)

- **WHERE IS THE FAITH IN THIS?**
- **LESSON:** God's will will always be done!
 - Consider Job 23:13; 42:2; Proverbs 16:9; 19:21; 21:30; Psalm 33:10-11; Isaiah 14:24, 26-27; 46:10; Ephesians 1:11.
 - God's **promises** are not **depended** on man!!!

The Trembling and Faith of Isaac (Genesis 27:30-28:4)

- Esau enters Isaac's tent shortly after Jacob leaves!
- **VERSE 33 is the key verse to Hebrews 11:20!**
- *As soon* as Isaac hears that he has been deceived "**he trembled very exceedingly**". Isaac realized that he had been pitting himself against the mind (will) of God.
- And then his statement of faith: "I have blessed him and indeed he shall be blessed!"
- Notice that he does not curse Jacob nor does he grumbling, complain or murmur against God!! **HE SUBMITS TO THE SOVEREIGN GOD!**
 - He confirms the blessing!!
- (28:1-4) Isaac calls Jacob and gives him the blessing of Abraham!

The Faith of Jacob

- Read again Hebrews 11:1.
- Abraham is now dead!
- Isaac is about to die!
- The only property Isaac owns is grave site!
- There is nothing for faith to rest on . . . except . . .
- There is no hope . . . except . . .
- There (humanly speaking) nothing to make this blessing probable . . . except . . .
- **EXCEPT the WORD of GOD!!!**



