

Genesis 26
“*Repeating The Past*”

~LET'S PRAY~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled this message: **“Repeating The Past.”**

~INTRO~

OK...

- One more time... remember the big picture and flow of **Genesis**.

WE SEE A SPECIFIC PLAN...

- Unfolding WITH specific characters – “*The Patriarchs.*”

IN...

- (Gen. 12 – 50) God focuses in on four main characters:

- 1) Abraham
- 2) Isaac
- 3) Jacob
- 4) Joseph

NOW... IN TODAY'S STUDY...

- The Bible focuses in on Isaac...
 - As we see his faith over an extended period of time.

IDEA #1 – FOLLOWING BY FAITH: (vv.1-5)

NOW AS WE REVISIT THE SCENE OF (v.1)...

- It takes us back to (Gen. 12:10-13)...
 - With Isaac's father Abraham.

ABRAHAM FACED A TRIAL OF FAITH!

- It was a severe feminine in the land of promise.
 - And God wanted to Abraham to trust Him...
 - Even though the circumstances...
 - Showed no evidence of God's help.

HE WANTED ABRAHAM...

- To remain in the land of promise.

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THIS TYPE OF STORY...

- Is repeated throughout the Bible and our lives.

IN THE BOOK OF ([Ruth 1](#))...

- Elimelech & Naomi faced the same thing...
 - But they wanted to play it safe...
 - And sought relief apart from faith and went to Moab.

IN THE END...

- It was devastating decision...
 - That took a decade...
 - Before the full consequences played out.

LISTEN... GROWTH IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH...

- Happens as we follow Jesus with steps of faith...
 - *For without faith we cannot please God* – ([Heb. 11:6](#)).

IN OTHER WORDS...

- We only grow as we take steps of faith –
 - Many times it's risky to follow.
 - There are times when we don't understand.
 - There are times when we suffer.
 - There are times when God calls us to do something...
 - That rages against natural logic.

CONSIDER GIDEON ([Judges 6 & 7](#))...

- God called him to tear down the alter of Baal (risking his life)...
 - Then to take on 135,000 Midianites ([Judges 8:10](#))...
 - With 300-committed men who were armed with...
 - Trumpets / pitchers / & torches ([Judges 7:16](#)).

HERE'S WHAT I WANT YOU TO LEARN:

- God calls the man...
 - God strengthens the man...
 - And God fights for the man ([Judges 7:21-22](#))

SO... STOP PLAYING IT SAFE!

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IDEA #2 – LAPSE OF FAITH: (vv.6-16)

ISAAC FAITH IS BEING TESTED...

- And he was last seen at Beer Lahai-roi ([Genesis 25:11](#)).

IT'S ESTIMATED...

- That the last famine had been 100-years earlier with Abraham.
 - So this was a first for Isaac.

NOW...

- Don't miss this...
 - The famine caused Isaac to move to Gerar...
 - Which is deeper into the land of promise.
- Abraham had done the opposite and ran down into Egypt.

KEY LESSON FOR US:

- Trials either draw us closer to God...
 - Or move us farther away depending on our response.

BACK IN ([v.2](#)) GOD HAD APPEARED TO ISAAC FOR THE FIRST TIME...

- And there was an initial response of faith.

(John 14:21) NLT

“Those who accept my commandment and obey them are the ones who love Me. And because they love Me, My Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal Myself to each of them.”

NOW AS TIME WENT ON...

- ([v.7](#)) tells us that Isaac's faith got tripped up.
 - His dad (Abraham) made a ½ truth (which is still a lie)...
 - But Isaac made a full-blown lie here.

FAITH IS LIVING WITHOUT SCHEMING...

- But lying try's to escape or soften human responsibility.

(Proverbs 29:250 NLT

“Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the LORD means safety.”

CAN I ENCOURAGE YOU...

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- To stay away from ½ truths!

THE DAMAGE THAT'S DONE THRU PARTIAL TRUTHS...

- Breaks trust...
- Ruins friendships...
- And hurts innocent people.

I'VE SEEN THIS TOO MUCH...

- In in the church...
 - Years of friendships tossed to the curb in an instant!
 - Thru a lie.

IDEA #3 – CONTINUING BY FAITH: (vv.17-33)

AS WE BEGIN TO WRAP UP THIS STUDY...

- The remainder of the chapter shows Isaac and his servants...
 - In the land of promise... digging wells and looking for water.
- (v.18) Says they were trying to find the wells Abraham had dug.

NOW...

- Perhaps we could be encouraged by recognizing...
 - Perseverance is still needed inside the WILL of God.
 - Isaac dug a total of 4-different wells in these verses.
- And the first wells faced tremendous conflict & opposition.
 - It's the same way in your Christian life.
 - Satan loves to discourage you in the will of God.

(1 Cor. 15:57) NKJV

“*But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

AMEN!

~IN CLOSING~

If you need prayer...

- Come to the front of the stage.
 - Where we can serve you.