

THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

Thoughts for Today Blog # 219 “Isaac’s Journey of Faith”

Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

February 6, 2020, Rev. Dr. Dave McCowan cdavemccowan@gmail.com

Last week I wrote about Isaac digging out the wells that had been filled in that his father Abraham had dug and renaming them what Abraham had named them. This week let’s look at how he built an altar before he dug the wells and how he received blessings because of his and Abraham’s obedience.

Genesis 26:17-25

17 And Isaac departed thence, and pitched his tent in the valley of Gerar, and dwelt there.

18 And Isaac digged again the wells of water, which they had digged in the days of Abraham his father; for the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham: and he called their names after the names by which his father had called them.

19 And Isaac's servants digged in the valley, and found there a well of springing water.

20 And the herdmen of Gerar did strive with Isaac's herdmen, saying, The water is ours: and he called the name of the well Esek; because they strove with him.

21 And they digged another well, and strove for that also: and he called the name of it Sitnah.

22 And he removed from thence, and digged another well; and for that they strove not: and he called the name of it Rehoboth; and he said, For now the Lord hath made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.

23 And he went up from thence to Beersheba.

24 And the Lord appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham's sake.

25 And he builded an altar there, and called upon the name of the Lord, and pitched his tent there: and there Isaac's servants digged a well.

The first priority with Abraham when he came to a new land was to build an altar. The first amazing experience we read that Isaac had was with his father when Abraham obeyed God and laid him upon the altar. Isaac faithfully obeyed his father and helped him prepare an altar and allowed him to bind him and lay him on the altar they had built together. When God provided the ram, they worshiped God together.

Isaac's first priority when he went out on his own was to meet his physical needs when he came into a new land. V.18,19,21 and 22. His first altar was built only after the second personal experience with God. V. 24-25. In the last blog, I focused on Isaac digging wells and how God needs well diggers. Well diggers are those who are willing to do the menial tasks. We can't overlook the fact Isaac built an altar before he dug the well.

Menial or servant tasks (building an altar) done for the Lord mean nothing or very little to the Lord if we don't first build an altar. When I write about building an altar, I mean we are to give our life to the Lord and acknowledge He is Lord of all. The act of building an altar is a spiritual act. The spiritual act is not just the sacrifice on the altar. We

build an altar by prayer, exercising faith, obedience, and daily worship.

Notice God blessed Isaac out of respect for Abraham. V. 24. The writer of Hebrews mentions many acts of faith of Abraham but only one regarding Isaac (Hebrews 11:20).

Isaac's main act of faith was passing along the blessing to his children. This continued the line of Abraham and established an heir and a king to the future kingdom that God had promised Abraham. This is known as the birthright and the blessing.

What are some major life lessons from the life of Isaac?

A. It is important that we seek God and not wait for Him to get our attention the hard way.

B. We cannot rest on the faith of our parents to sustain us.

C. Pass along your faith to your children and your children's children.

God blessed the faith journey of both Abraham and Isaac. Both of them experienced and expressed God's blessing in different ways.

<http://homeavechurch.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/Home-Ave-First-Church-of-God164517781884/>