

January 26-Genesis 26

Have you ever done something and immediately realized that you reacted just like one of your parents? It is a fact of life that those whom we love and those who we are closest to influence us and many times they do so even though we do not realize it. In Genesis 26, we see Isaac acting just like Abraham. If you remember, Abraham lied two times (Genesis 12 and 20) about his wife Sarah, saying that she was his sister instead of his wife. Both times, God corrected Abraham. In Genesis 26 we see Isaac doing the exact same thing with his wife, Rebekah.

Furthermore, as we look at Isaac's logic for why he lied about his relationship with Rebekah, we see that his logic was the same as Abraham's. Just like Abraham feared for his life, being afraid that someone would kill him to have his wife, Isaac feared the same with Rebekah. In verse 7 we read that Isaac feared to say that Rebekah was his wife "lest the men of the place should kill me because of Rebekah." This story gives us great insight and warning today. We tend to be more like our parents and other close family and friends than we realize. Often, we are not only prone to imitate their strengths but also their weaknesses. Certainly from a daily perspective this is a reality that we must understand.

The larger principle here though is that we are influenced by those we are around the most often. To be fair, we don't know whether Isaac and Abraham even spoke about these missteps in Abraham's past but we do know that the pattern in this text is unmistakably the same. Isaac is following in his father's footsteps and we are prone to do the same.

While this may be negative in some respects, it can also be incredibly positive both in our physical lives as well as in our spiritual relationship with God the Father. In Jesus Christ we have a relationship that is able to sustain us and influence us as we attempt to live and move in a righteous way in this life. The apostle Paul commanded the Corinthians to "imitate me as I imitate Christ." It was Christ's example that provided the blue print for Paul's ministry and life and it is His example today that provides a positive influence and example to emulate. The good news then is that God's relationship to us as Father through Christ is available to any and all believers. Regardless of how good or poor your earthly parents may have been your heavenly Father is perfect! I pray you allow time today to pursue relationship with Him through the Word of God and communion in prayer so that He can continue to influence you as you grow in holiness!