

## Ordinary People; Supernatural Purposes

April 10, 2011

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Genesis 26

Pastor Mark W. Turner

1. Ordinary People have ordinary trials
  - Famine in the land v1. This was the promised land!
  - Trials are a part of life 1 Cor 10:13 - Hebrews 11:hall of faith
  - God uses trials to drive us to GREATER dependence upon Him!
2. Ordinary People have ordinary fears/challenges
  - Isaac panicked & headed towards Egypt (Gerar - where God stopped him)
  - Lied about wife due to... FEAR v7
  - Antidote to fear: fear God - know God - trust God's sovereignty
3. Ordinary People have ordinary sin
  - God uses redeemed sinners - Isaac mixture of obedience & sin:
    - Isaac headed toward Egypt w/o consulting Lord v1
    - Isaac lies about Rebekah out of fear v7
  - God uses sinners who are wrestling with sin for His purposes
4. Ordinary People have ordinary hassles
  - Digging wells = hard work, hardly spiritual, but blessed others
  - Each hassle moved Isaac closer to where God wanted Isaac v23 (1 Jn 2:15)
  - God uses hassles to move YOU closer to where He wants you
5. Ordinary People have ordinary family problems
  - Isaac had family trouble: v34-35, chp 27
  - God often uses imperfect families — Seek Holiness!
  - His Grace, not our Works!
6. Ordinary People who obey God are often used & blessed!
  - Isaac's growth in obedience was slow & imperfect
  - Are you wandering in your obedience? Remember:
    - God's promises are based on Grace not works
    - Blessings can seem to cause hassles because God is working
7. Ordinary People will be used by God to Bless the Nations
  - Covenant w/ Abraham: that all the nations of the earth might be blessed!
  - God blesses us so we can bless others
  - How are you using God's blessings to bless others?

### APPLY IT:

- Why does God's blessings not always mean a hassle-free life? Discuss that in light of Gen 26:12-21.
- How might God be using current hassles or problems in your life to help accomplish His purposes through you? Are you fighting Him or seeking to be used by Him?
- Believers are imperfect. What is a proper balance between accepting our imperfections (realizing grace) and seeking holiness (using means of grace)?
- Read 2 Cor 11:30. Where do you feel most inadequate? How can God use you because of your inadequacy? How is God moving you towards Him?

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