

How to be blessed by God

Reading Genesis 26:1-6, 12-34

The Promise of God to Isaac: “I will be with you and bless you”, verse 3

The Promise of God to you and I: “There is no difference between Jew and Gentile – the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on Him.” Romans 10:12

The Promise of God is beyond understanding or imagination:

“As it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him”. 1 Corinthians 2:9

“God is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us”. Ephesians 3:20

We need to look at the environment of Isaac, Genesis 26:1 “There was famine in the land” no doubt this was due to prolonged dryness. No rain. So in the middle of all these problems God promises blessings to Isaac.

Yet there was a condition. God told Isaac to stay put. Don’t go to Egypt. Don’t run away from the problem. Stay in this land. I will be with you and will bless you. Often we miss the blessings because we move away when there are difficulties. We move to a safer area.

The blessings come when we are in God’s place, in His will. This may in the middle of a famine or in the middle of enemy territory. The safest place in earth is in the center of God’s will. “So Isaac stayed in Gerar”. Verse 8.

We have noticed 2 basic requirements to enjoy God’s blessings.

FAITH AND OBEDIENCE

Isaac was certainly not perfect. In verse 7 it is recorded that he lied about his wife Rebecca. He told the king of the Philistines, Abimelech that she was his sister. So being perfect is not God’s requirement for being blessed.

A further requirement for God’s blessings is found in verse 12. We notice that Isaac planted crops in the middle of a famine. It says in verse 12 that he reaped a hundred fold because the Lord blessed him. Famine or no famine makes no difference. Surroundings make no difference. What matters is that God was with him and God blessed him. We see him working hard. God will not bless a lazy person. **Hard work.** Paul worked hard with his own hands as we read in 1 Corinthians 4:12. God blessed Isaac and in verse 13 we read that he became very rich and his wealth continued to grow until he became very wealthy. He had so many flocks and herds and servants that the Philistines envied him.

All the wells that Abraham had dug had been filled up with earth. Why are wells filled up with earth? Because they are dry. Remember it was a time of famine. But Isaac reopened the wells of his father Abraham. He discovered a well of fresh water. But the Philistines came and quarreled and said the water is ours. What did Isaac do? He let them have the well and dug another one but the neighbors demanded that one also.

So Isaac moved away a bit and dug another well and we read in verse 22 that at last the neighbors let him alone. He named the new well Rehoboth and said to his servants “now the Lord has given us room and we will flourish in the land.” Rehoboth means plenty of room.

Isaac did not want to quarrel. He did not want to fight for his rights. Very interesting how he handled the problems with his neighbors. He gave in and gave up his rights. **So here we see the 4th requirement for God’s blessings.**

No quarreling, no fighting, no debating, not demanding our rights.

This is not easy for us who come from countries where we emphasize the basic human rights. I remember having to read a book entitled “We have no rights” when I was a missionary candidate. I still remember the chapter titles:

- The right to what I consider a normal standard of living
- The right to ordinary safeguards of Good Health
- The right to regulate my private affairs as I wish
- The right to privacy
- The right to my own time
- The right to a normal romance, if any
- The right to a normal home life
- The right to live with people of my choice
- The right to feel superior
- The right to run things

Verse 24 “That night the Lord appeared again to him and said, ‘I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham.’”

Even the King of the Philistines noticed that the Lord blessed Isaac. He came to Isaac and asked for a **peace treaty**. A mighty testimony to the non-believers.

The blessings of the Lord kept coming. He dug a new well and discovered more water. He built a town near this well and it was called Beersheba. The city is there today as a witness to the blessings of God on Isaac. The city has 130,000 people and is the home to the Ben Gurion University. It became part of modern Israel in Oct. 21, 1948 in the War of Independence. Before that it was administered by Egypt. It is called the Gateway to the Negev desert.

God wants to bless us also. We need to remember the 4 requirements to receive God’s blessings:

- Faith in God**
- Obedience to His Word,**
- Hard work,**
- No Quarreling and not demanding our rights.**

Our right is to come to God in prayer.

Another basic right of all people is to hear the Gospel.