

Sermon Outlines

All Decisions Have Consequences

Readings

Genesis 26:1-4

Introduction

One of the lessons we learn early in life is decisions have consequences. If we fall and get hurt, we learn to be more careful. If we get cut using a knife the wrong way, we learn how to use it the right way, apart from learning the cost can be quite sore. At times we learn the consequences of our actions by being disobedient, that is what happened to Abraham.

Decisions

When almost at the border of Canaan, God told Abraham, “Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of” (Gen. 26:2). A decision had to be made? Despite how things looked, would he obey God who always knows best, or go his own way?

The decision of Abraham was to reject God’s wisdom and go his own way so it reads, “Abram journeyed, going on still” (Gen. 12:9).

- a) Disobedience is not believing God’s word or disbelieving His ability. It always brings judgment.
 - i) Abram did not believe God and the dire results were:
 1. He had his wife tell lies. He got wealthy from the world.
 2. He lost his testimony before the pagan king.

- b) Obedience is manifested by believing God which brings blessing.
 - i) Noah believed God and saved his house (Heb. 11:7).
 - ii) Obedience to the gospel message brings present and future blessings.
 1. It’s conditional. Most of God’s promises require obedience on our part. Notice that God repeats “I will” over and over in these verses. Saying “I will” are promises of God. I will be with you and bless you; I will make your seed to multiply as the stars of the heaven; I will give unto thy seed all these countries; I will perform the oath which I gave unto Abraham; in thy seed shall all nations be blessed (Gen. 26:3-4).
 2. God says, “I’m going to do it all.” Isaac did not need to find concubines or extra wives to multiply his descendants. God multiplies the two sons that he had and makes nations out of both of them; He doesn’t have to fight the Canaanites for the land – at the end of this chapter God makes room for him in the valley; he doesn’t have to bless all the nations of the earth – God’s going to do that by bringing the Messiah into the world as a babe in Bethlehem. God says, “I will,” but there remains something for Isaac to do.
 3. We must do as God says, let the good Shepherd lead and have the attitude of the Psalmist, “Thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me” (Psa. 31:3).
 4. The Lord pledged, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me” (Jn. 10:27).
 - (a) He leadeth them (Rev. 7:17).
 - (b) Leadeth thee (Isa. 48:17).

Isaac Disobeyed God

God told Isaac two truths:

- a) “Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of” (Gen. 26:2).
- b) “I will be with thee, and will bless thee” (Gen. 26:3).
 - i) Isaac did not go down into Egypt for possibly two reasons:
 1. He may have remembered the sorrow that being in Egypt brought to his father’s home.

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2. God had told him not to.

- c) Isaac obeyed and He stayed in Gerar for the rest of his life (Gen. 26:17). Why Gerar?
 - i) That's where Isaac was born and raised for his first 40 years.
 - ii) It seems to me that Isaac married Rebekah at Beersheba where his father had been. However, I am not sure if this can be verified for all it records of a marriage is, "Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife" (Gen. 24:66, 67).

One of life's important lessons is learning that, "God does not bless because of one's worthiness".

- a) God blessed Isaac because of an unconditional covenant He had made with Isaac's father. God had promised Abraham, And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed. Why? Because Abraham obeyed His voice.
- b) A host of God's promises were at Isaac's doorstep, as a birthright.
 - i) What a way to live, in a covenant relationship with God, a covenant God had made to another.
 - ii) God has given to us through His word covenant blessings. What a blessedness to live in them as Abraham and David did (Rom. 4:1-6).

..... *R. Pucci*

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**