

Sermon Outlines

Lessons From The Life of Abraham - Part 2

Recap

- 1) The dark cloud of famine that Abraham had and the disappointments of life.
- 2) Today, some of the lessons Abraham had to learn apply to us all.
- 3) His journey from idolatry to godly fear, from depending on sight to depending on the unseen God.
- 4) When the disciples set across the sea there was no indication of a storm. It would have been a relaxing time.
- 5) It is easy to forget God in the calm seas of life, but just as the wheat etc. needs the winds and rains to grow and be beneficial, so the saints are the same.

The Lessons Of and From God Are Repeatable and Progressive

First lesson

- a) God allows trials into their lives so that they might seek Him and find Him, even though He's not far from any one of us (Acts 17:27).
- b) For believers, the famine or time of need is a test for several truths to shine into our hearts.
 - i) God had permitted the storm for the disciples to get to know Him by experience. By it they learnt the power of the Lord over nature. Mary and Martha learnt His power over death, the blind man learned His power over blindness and so forth.
 - ii) In times of trouble, do we turn to what shall we do relying on our resources, or do we turn to "Yahweh Yireh, the Lord Who Provides?"
 1. "My God shall supply all your need" (Phil. 4:19).

Second lesson

- 1) "Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen" (Gen. 22:14) after his readiness to offer Issac. Note that was not his first test of faith.
 - a) Abraham was an idolater (Josh. 24:1) and God revealed himself to him (Acts 7:1-4).
 - i) Like us when first saved, we knew we were saved, but knew very little else. We have to learn God from experiences in life.
 - b) He went down to Egypt and to be on the safe side, told his wife to say she was his sister, even though God had promised him a son by Sarah. He failed.
 - i) It was logical but not faith. How very easy it is for us to do the same thing. God never told him to go there. What Abraham ought to have done was ask God for direction.

Third lesson

- 1) God cares for us even when we have been disobedient.
 - a) In Ezekiel 20:5-10 we learn Israel were idolaters in Egypt, in the wilderness (Ezek. 20:15-18) and the land (Ezek. 20:28-32), yet God was faithful.
 - i) Were the disciples faithful when they ran away in Gethsemane?
 - ii) Was Peter faithful when he denied the Lord?
 - iii) Can we point a finger at them for have we not done the same?
 - b) Abraham failed when he told his wife to say she was his sister, a matter he did continually, but God was faithful.
 - i) He promised provision and protection (Gen. 15:1).
 - ii) He promised Abraham a son (Gen. 17:9).
 - iii) The promises of God are true and Amen.
 1. Do not let the smallness of our appreciation of God lessen the richness of His promises.

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Fourth test and lesson

- 1) Children are little imitators and often do what their parents do. This was the experience of Isaac.
 - a) In a time of famine, Abraham (the father) failed and went into Egypt.
 - b) When a famine came Isaac did what his father had done. Instead of trusting God and going to Him, he went to Abimelech.
 - c) Isaac went to Abimelech in Gerar, on the west side of Canaan, near Gaza on the way to Egypt.
 - i) Like father, like son, he followed in his father's footsteps. He headed for Egypt because that's where his father went.
 - ii) Just because Abraham did it did not make it right. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 says, "You are not your own . . . you were bought with a price", you belong to God, we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.
 - iii) As those who are blood bought having our citizenship in Heaven, we ought not to follow the culture or the dictates of our sinful hearts. We follow our Shepherd and follow His plan.

Fifth Lesson

- 1) What I do affects others.
 - a) Later, Lot chose the well-watered plains for they were like Egypt. How did he learn what Egypt was like? From being with Uncle Abraham, Like Abraham, he was only looking after his flocks but it ended in disaster.
 - i) Lot paid a dreadful price for following a wayward saint.
 1. Lot had two daughters who went to Hell along with sons-in-law.
 2. He lost his wife for she loved Sodom.
 3. He ended life in a cave and was used by his daughters to give birth to two of Israel's enemies.
 4. He was told to go to the mountains but asked the Lord to let him go to a little city. What solemn truth. It is irrelevant the size of the city, it was its morality that was the problem. It does not matter how little a sin is, it is the act of disobedience to God.
 - (a) Disobedience always brings disaster.

Sixth Lesson

- 1) In time, Abraham faced his last recorded test.
 - a) Can we imagine a conversation between God and Abraham?
 - ii) God speaking: Abraham, do you trust me and my promise to give you a family from Isaac?
 - iii) Abraham responded: Yes God, absolutely and no doubt.
 - iv) God answered: Good then put your son on an altar and kill him as a burnt offering.
 1. Now the rubber was meeting the road, it was either a yes or no.
 2. Abraham passed with flying colours, how blessed he was.

The life of faith will have many tests.

- a) Just like University, you don't graduate by passing only one test. There are numerous tests in every course, but unlike University, failure is not an option. If we fail, then we have to repeat the same tests and the same course over and over until we pass. Only when we've learned, can we move on to the next course, new lessons and different tests.

. . . . R. Pucci

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