

Genesis 25-26

February 6, 2011

25:1-11: Who can tell us what takes place in chapter 25 verses 1 to 11?

- Abraham remarries and has several kids. He eventually gives gifts to them and sends them away toward the east (modern day Jordan and possibly Saudi Arabia and Iraq). He leaves his fortune to Isaac. Abraham dies at 175 years of age and is buried in **Machpelah** (*mack-PEE-luh*) with **Sarah** by his sons **Isaac** and **Ishmael**.

25:8: Notice what it says about Abraham in verse 8. What do you think that it looks like to be satisfied with your life?

- See what you get. Abraham had a great life. He walked by faith (*most* of the time). God blessed him with incredible wealth (24:35) and a son by his barren wife in their old age. God had used Abraham: he had conquered kings (chapter 14). Abraham had worshiped God through his giving (14:17-20).

What is required for us to live “satisfied” lives?

- See what you get. Satisfaction is having everything you need to be happy. The less you need (or require), the happier you will be. See 1 Timothy 6:8. We live in a materialistic culture, but we can still learn to be content with what we have. See Philippians 4:11-13. If we walk with God well, we can be satisfied in marriage or without marriage and with kids or without kids. If our inner life is right, then we get our happiness from God within ourselves and not from outside of ourselves (from “life” and others).

What a great epitaph: He died a “satisfied” man. (He left this world to forever be with The Lord)

25:11: God “blessed” Isaac. What do you think that it means to be “blessed”?

- See what you get. You are blessed if you know that God loves you and is with you. You are blessed when you have others to love and who love you (*It's not good for man to be alone.*). You are blessed if you have anything that is more than you actually need to survive (food and covering).

In Genesis 31:24-32 Jacob wrestles with an angel. He holds onto the angel until the angel would “bless” him. The angel knocked Jacob’s hip out of joint. How was this a blessing?

- See what you get. Jacob was arrogant and he was a swindler. That day he was humbled, became honest, and began to submit to God’s will for his life. The “limp” was a reminder of authority in Jacob’s life. Whatever causes us to submit to God’s will for our life, even though it might be a trial or trouble, is ultimately a blessing.

Why is it that we don’t “feel” blessed?

- See what you get. We don’t feel blessed because we have established some standard of living that we require in order to be happy. We don’t measure our lives by how much more we have than food and clothing but by what we *don’t have* that we think that we are entitled to.

25:21-26: What takes place in verses 21 to 26?

- Rebekah is barren. Isaac prays and she conceives twins. God tells her that the older will serve the younger. When born, Jacob comes out second...holding onto his brother Esau’s heel.

25:27-34: What takes place in verses 27 to 34?

- Esau** becomes his father’s favorite because he is an outdoorsman. **Jacob** becomes Rebekah’s favorite because he is a homebody. Esau comes in from the field one day and believes that he is about to starve to death. Jacob is making stew. Esau wants the stew so Jacob the swindler talks Esau into selling his

birthright (his inheritance) to Jacob for the bowl of stew. Jacob gives him the stew and takes possession of his brother's birthright.

What are your thoughts about this story?

- When parents prefer one kid over another, it's going to be a disaster. Oddly enough, Jacob didn't learn this lesson, later prefers Joseph over his other children, and ends up suffering dearly for it.
- Esau was given to exaggeration. He thought that he was going to die (literally) in the next few minutes if he didn't get that stew.
- Esau was given to instant gratification. He threw away obtaining his father's fortune later to have a bowl of stew now.
- Jacob was a shrewd "wheeler and dealer".

Do people still throw away their futures for "bowls of stew"?

- Yes they do. More people than not live for instant gratification. They damage what they might have later in a marriage so they can have sex *now*. They give up a secure future to have more "stuff" *now*. Some have thrown away their families, friends, and careers for some pleasure *now*. Esau is "alive and well" in our world today.

26:1-6: Who can tell us what takes place in verses 1 to 5 of chapter 26?

- Have someone describe what takes place.

26:4: What three things are promised to Isaac in verse 4?

- God would (1) multiply his descendants; (2) give the Promised Land to them; and, (3) all the nations of the earth would be blessed by his family.

How would all of the nations be blessed by Isaac's family?

- Jesus, a Jew and descendant of Isaac, would die for the sins of the whole world.

26:5: Why would God do all of this for Isaac and his family?

- God would do this because Abraham obeyed Him.

26:6-11: What takes place in verses 6 to 11?

Isaac tells the people in Gerar (*jur-ARE*) that Rebekah is his sister. King Abimelech (*uh-BIMM-uh-leck*) sees them caressing and confronts them. The king then forbids the people to harm Isaac or Rebekah in any way.

Why did Abimelech react the way he that did when he saw Isaac caressing his wife?

- This is the same Abimelech who took Sarah, Isaac's mother, into his harem thinking that she was Abraham's sister. God shut the wombs of the women in Gerar until Abimelech sent Sarah back to Abraham and was prayed for by Abraham. *All of this took place in chapter 20.*

What life principle might we learn from what Isaac did here?

- God visits the iniquity of the fathers on the children (*Exodus 20:5*). Abraham lied about his wife being his sister and now his son Isaac does the same thing...in this case with the same king. Another principle is that our children "go further" with sin than we do. Abraham's "half-truth" or "white lie" (*Genesis 20:12*) became Isaac's complete lie. What we do in moderation, our children tend to do in excess.

26:12-14: Notice in verses 12 to 14 how God can bless a life. Has God promised to make all of those who follow Him rich?

- No.

What has God promised those who follow Him?

- The New Testament promises “true riches” ([Luke 16:11](#)) and abundant life ([John 10:10](#)) to those who obey God. God promises to meet every need of those who put Him first ([Matthew 6:33](#) & [Philippians 4:19](#)), but the New Testament does not promise financial wealth to us. Turn and let’s read [Proverbs 10:22](#). [Proverbs 10:22](#): The blessing of the Lord makes a person rich, and he adds no sorrow with it. [NLT](#)

26:15-25: What takes place in verses 15 to 25?

- The **Philistines** had essentially taken possession of the wells that **Abraham** dug in [21:25-31](#). They had filled up those wells with dirt. Isaac reopened those wells and the local herdsmen claimed that he was taking their water. Isaac ends up digging more wells to make these local people happy. In [verse 24](#) God speaks to Isaac and he builds an altar there and calls upon the name of the Lord.

26:26-33: What takes place in verses 26 to 33?

- **Abimelech** recognizes God’s blessing on **Isaac** and makes a covenant with him. **Abimelech** had also made a covenant with **Abraham** ([21:22-27](#)) in this very same valley ([21:31](#) & [26:33](#)).

26:34-35: What do we learn in verses 34 and 35?

Esau, the son of **Isaac** and twin of **Jacob**, marries **two Hittite** women who bring grief to **Isaac** and **Rebekah**.

Note: Esau was filled with hatred toward Jacob for taking away both his birthright and his blessing. He vowed to himself to kill Jacob as soon as Isaac died. Here again, Rebecca prophetically perceived his murderous intentions and ordered Jacob to travel to her brother Laban's house in Haran, until Esau's anger subsided. She then convinced Isaac to send Jacob away by telling him that she despaired of him marrying a local girl from the idol-worshipping families of [Canaan](#) (as Esau had done). After Isaac sent Jacob away to find a wife, Esau realized that his own Canaanite wives were evil in his father's eyes, and he took a daughter of Isaac's half-brother [Ishmael](#) as another wife.