

World History is often highlighted by the exploits of powerful, prominent men and women but if truth be told most of us are born grow and live rather ordinary lives me, passing away in relative anonymity. For most our greatest and most important accomplishments will be in the sphere of influence with those whom we do life alongside, our families, we work with, and the differing people we regularly interact with..

- **Isaac was such a man... a man most of like us, in his life he fought no great military battles, built no cities, erected no monuments ... he lived wedged between his very famous father Abraham, and his famous son Jacob whose name was changed to Israel and his famous grandson the hero Joseph.**
- **Twelve chapters of Genesis follow his father Abraham's life, one chapter chronicles Isaac's life journey ...the rest of Genesis 23 chapters records his son and grandson journey's of faith.**
- **The man lived for one hundred and eighty years surely he did many other things also...So Why would the Holy Spirit record Isaac's digging of wells? The man lived for one hundred and eighty years surely he did many other things also...But the Spirit recorded these acts and also gives us the well's names. So what can we learn and apply in our lives from some wells dug four thousand years ago.**

1)First of all you do counts spiritually...

Col 3:23 Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. 24 Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.

- **In Isaac's case it was in the digging of those wells that he left a trail of blessing behind him everywhere he went!**

- What you leave behind is as just as important as where your heading.
And God wants us to learn from that!
- **And Isaac learned that his inheritance is from God and his work must be unto God.**

So what can we learn and apply in our lives from some wells dug four thousand years ago.

let's examine little of Isaac's personal journey with God...and also see ourselves in it

Gen 26:1 A severe famine now struck the land, as had happened before in Abraham's time. So Isaac moved to Gerar, where Abimelech, king of the Philistines, lived. 2 The Lord appeared to Isaac and said, "Do not go down to Egypt, but do as I tell you.

- **challenges happen in every generation...His father Abraham suffered through a famine...and now Isaac suffers from a severe famine...His dad went to Egypt during the famine in his time where food was still plentiful. ...Isaac appears to be moing in the same direction he intended to do what daddy did...Abraham went back... our tendency is to go backward when confronted with obstacles...**
- **But we follow a God who is always doing new things God...and moving forward always makes us uncomfortable..**
- **One reason we have the bible to remind us again and again what God says.. of his will and ways and His promises.. in this case dont move stay..I will be with you here...**

*3 Live here as a foreigner in this land, and **I will** be with you and **ble**ss you. I hereby confirm that **I will** give all these lands to you and your descendants, just as I solemnly promised Abraham, your father. 4 **I will** cause your descendants to become as numerous as the stars of the sky, and **I will** give*

them all these lands. And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed. 5 I will do this because Abraham listened to me and obeyed all my requirements, commands, decrees, and instructions.” 6 So Isaac stayed in Gerar.

- the bottom line of faith is believing that God will do what God says he will...
- so his obey his command Isaac stay and face the famine...

2) You cannot trust the heart of what God which you don't see... until you can trust the work of his hands... which you do see ...same command is to you and I in our seasons of challenge

- so God affirmed the oath to Isaac he made to Abraham ...seven times he said I will to Isaac:
- **I will** be with you And **bless** you.
- For to you and your descendants **I will** give all these lands
- And **will** confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham.
- **I will** make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky
- and **will** give them all these lands, and through your offspring
- all nations on earth **will** be blessed,
- And He would do this because of Abraham...who obeyed Him...he obeyed by trusting God...not perfectly...but consistently through his journey in life...
- and he has a plan for the world and Isaac is included and so are you
- Isaac would be blessed for the sake of Abraham...we are blessed as children of God..

3) God promised him that he would bless him...but people scared him out of believing it... how about you and me? we trust God but often do people scare us out of believing it?

7 When the men who lived there asked Isaac about his wife, Rebekah, he said, “She is my sister.” He was afraid to say, “She is my wife.” He thought, “They will kill me to get her, because she is so beautiful.”

- Isaac lied...feared man, more than trusting God...still had to learn
- compromised for a long time..so he stayed a long time...

GE 26:8 But some time later, Abimelech, king of the Philistines, looked out his window and saw Isaac caressing Rebekah. 9 Immediately, Abimelech called for Isaac and exclaimed, “She is obviously your wife! Why did you say, ‘She is my sister’?”

- His fear was a real threat...heck how often scare ourselves out of it...
- He did not own up to his lie until he was caught...

GE 26: 10 “How could you do this to us?” Abimelech exclaimed. “One of my people might easily have taken your wife and slept with her, and you would have made us guilty of great sin.” 11 Then Abimelech issued a public proclamation: “Anyone who touches this man or his wife will be put to death!” 12 When Isaac planted his crops that year, he harvested a hundred times more grain than he planted, for the Lord blessed him.

- Isaac’s fear of man froze him business wise...he barely got by...fear always contracts our life...his lie did not prosper him...but held him back...no mention of him digging wells...which would be the thing to do in a famine....but fear of people kills you while your living....
- Isaac did not plant crops and dig wells until an earthly King gave a promise of protection.
- What an expose of weak faith when an earthly king and in this case a pagan king’s word of safety is easier to rest on than the Word of the King of Kings...God Himself.
- How often we treat God with the same insulting lack of belief.

- But none the less God carries out His oath... to bless.... Isaac prospered in whatever he did as God promised...but a hundred fold, that is a ten thousand percent return... a miracle by anyone's standard.
- he was blessed but God was going to teach Isaac the error of his ways trusting man above God. there will be consequences...

13 He became a very rich man, and his wealth continued to grow. 14 He acquired so many flocks of sheep and goats, herds of cattle, and servants that the Philistines became jealous of him. 15 So the Philistines filled up all of Isaac's wells with dirt. These were the wells that had been dug by the servants of his father, Abraham. 16 Finally, Abimelech ordered Isaac to leave the country. "Go somewhere else," he said, "for you have become too powerful for us."

- **However the philistines envied him, they were jealous and stopped up the wells his father Abraham dug earlier.**
- first time we here about wells...In an arid environment water is life...farms, raising livestock and home life was and is dependent upon water,
- **And wells were the common means of obtaining life producing water.**
- **Filling in a well was a declaration of War...**
- **Since they could not attack Isaac directly because of the king's edict they attacked and destroyed what they considered the one necessity of his prosperity...water...**
- **There are two basic types of wells found in these deserts...**
- **The first is what can be called a cistern type well...one that is dug in which rain water is collected and stored or which catches water as it percolates through the ground...these wells often would run dry at certain times of the year during the long dry seasons where there was little or no precipitation. Based on circumstances...full to empty...empty to full**
- **The second is the much preferred Fresh water or living water well or spring or fountain as the one in verse 19 mentions. These wells tap into**

underground water flows and offer continuous fresh water or living water year round.

- **Digging** a typical well is very labor intensive... took 15 men 90 days, during which **time** approximately 1 360 cubic meters of dirt was excavated using pulleys, wooden barrels, and mules to pull up the barrels as the diggers filled them.
- **So the king who once protected withdraws his protection telling him to move away....**
- **This is where the world's wisdom and the believer's wisdom differs...**
 - **The people who don't know the Lord believe that blessing comes from the wells of this world...**
 - **God's kids know that all good things come from him, the maker of the wells**
 - **So we don't fight over what they fight about, nor should we fret over what they fret about...we don't do we?**

Isaac wavered in his faith but rose up and did what was by faith he refused to fight over things...His trust was in God's promise not wells nor Abimelech ...so he moved and continued to open up wells that were once stopped up....and dug three more.

Now God's kids... know that all good things come from him, the maker of the wells...with Him they find water where others only see desert...

- **Are you in a desert right now...well find where God wants you to dig and you will find water...**

Jesus referred to himself being the living well...

Wells were the means of life in the desert and from a spiritual perspective this world is a desert... and wells represent life...but only one particular type well represents eternal life

JN 7:37 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, (Tabernacles) Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink." 38

Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, *streams of living water* will flow from within him."

- **Whoever believed in Him ...from this well streams of water will flow ...he will have the Spirit living in him and will have life eternal...and will be a well giving living water... just as he told the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well the son of Isaac dug the well.**

John 4 :3 5 Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. 7 Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink."

Verse 9 *She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?"*

10 Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water." 11 "But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket," she said, "and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? 12 And besides, do you think you're greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?"

13 Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. 14 But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life."

- **A bubbling spring well...is a living well **Whoever believed in Him ...streams of water will flow up through him...they will become living water wells giving the gift of living water to a parched world****

- **So we like Isaac...have to learn to trust the living water of God not the wells of man... so he moved and continued to open up wells that were once stopped up....and dug three more.**

GE 26: 17 So Isaac moved away to the Gerar Valley, where he set up their tents and settled down. 18 He reopened the wells his father had dug, which the Philistines had filled in after Abraham's death. Isaac also restored the names Abraham had given them. 19 Isaac's servants also dug in the Gerar Valley and discovered a well of fresh water. 20 But then the shepherds from Gerar came and claimed the spring. "This is our water," they said, and they argued over it with Isaac's herdsmen. So Isaac named the well Esek (which means "argument"). 21 Isaac's men then dug another well, but again there was a dispute over it. So Isaac named it Sitnah (which means "hostility").

- **Esek means argument or injustice...** Although it would appear in the natural that he was losing out again.
- **Even the most peace loving among us will have strife, don't be surprised at trouble...even if we have to leave a fresh water well which we dug and blesses others.....**
- **When we take the position that this earth is our home is when we lay the groundwork for trouble.**
- **And when He left behind arguments...embracing trust.. he moved he was moving closer to the Lord promised land**
- **then Sitnah means hostility or hatred...to lie in wait as an adversary**
 - **The name Satan comes from the same root word Sitnah**
 - **The ultimate source of opposition...Spiritual opposition to the well...God's prospering**
 - **he moved on...leaving a blessing behind**

22 Abandoning that one, Isaac moved on and dug another well. This time there was no dispute over it, so Isaac named the place Rehoboth (which means "open space"), for he said, "At last the Lord has created enough space for us to prosper in this land."

- **Rehoboth...means open space ...** The philistines simply ignored Isaac he had moved increasingly further from the people and closer to God..they left him alone
- **Isaac would not capitulate and fight but kept trusting God's promise...the enemies gave up ...evreytime he moved God blessed him more...**
 - **He moved closer to the land of promise...challenges are designed to move us closer to the well giver..**

GE 26:23 From there Isaac moved to Beersheba, 24 where the Lord appeared to him on the night of his arrival. "I am the God of your father, Abraham," he said. "Do not be afraid, for I am with you and will bless you. I will multiply your descendants, and they will become a great nation. I will do this because of my promise to Abraham, my servant." 25 Then Isaac built an altar there and worshiped the Lord. He set up his camp at that place, and his servants dug another well.

- **He returned to the place his faith was at it's zenith Beersheba**
- **Beersheba....Beer means well...sheba means oath... the oath at the well...**
- **It was the place his father built an altar and worshipped the Lord and dug a well**
- **He returned to the roots of his faith... the giver of living water**
- **It is the place Beersheba where God spoke to Abraham, Hagar, Isaac, Jacob, and to Elijah...the place of relationship**
- ******* Life is not about digging wells that can be lost...it is about finding living water that leads to eternal life...**
- **And the Lord met him and spoke to Isaac there confirming again blessing ...but beyond that and much more important was that Isaac had the presence of God again.**
- **Something he had lost along the journey of life...he had the blessing but he needed the presence the relationship the fellowship..**

- This is something only the believer can understand...the loss of His presence his closeness...
 - The world will always chase after the presents or wells of God... but they have no desire for the living water of God....
 - **that is his will...for you**
Remember... What you leave behind is as just as important as where your heading.
 - Leave Phillistines...the enemies of our relationship to God
 - Leave fear...the enemy of hope...the destroyer of Trust
 - Leave lying...and the enemies of our character...and testimony
 - leave the well of Esek ...contention....the enemy of contentment...
 God makes us people of peace rather than strife...now that is a deep well...
 - Leave the well of Sitnah.. have nothing to do with the ways of the enemy of our soul...
 - leave the wells we have dug to provide water for others...that produce life..wells come and go..it is tapping the living water that matters...
move into Rehoboth...the open space...Freedom...Freedom is knowing that in the place of famine and desert...there is water underneath that sand....dig for it and that is where we move onto the place of Beershaba...the place of oath...the place of promise...the altar of God...
the place of peace....build an altar...a place to worship God.
- Wherever God has you there is a well to be dug...look for opportunities to dig a well...to bring and sustain life...
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and to top it off...he makes even your enemies at peace with you

Gen 26:26 One day King Abimelech came from Gerar with his adviser, Ahuzzath, and also Phicol, his army commander. 27 “Why have you come here?” Isaac asked. “You obviously hate me, since you kicked me off your land.” 28 They replied, “We can plainly see that the Lord is with you. So we want to enter into a sworn treaty with you. Let’s make a covenant. 29 Swear that you will not harm us, just as we have never troubled you. We have always treated you well, and we sent you away from us in peace. And now look how the Lord has blessed you!”

30 So Isaac prepared a covenant feast to celebrate the treaty, and they ate and drank together. 31 Early the next morning, they each took a solemn oath not to interfere with each other. Then Isaac sent them home again, and they left him in peace.

- **how did they see God clearly with them? they did not fight...they trusted God more than their wells...**
- **God makes us people of peace rather than strife...now that is a deep well...**
- **how did they see God clearly with them? they did not fight...they trusted God more than their wells...**
- **God makes us people of peace rather than strife...now that is a deep well...**

GE 26: 32 That very day Isaac’s servants came and told him about a new well they had dug. “We’ve found water!” they exclaimed. 33 So Isaac named the well Shibah (which means “oath”). And to this day the town that grew up there is called Beersheba (which means “well of the oath”).

- *Shibah...means oath...they got it ...the oaths of God are true...he could be trusted above all else...their lives and their comfort zones were expanded to include the truth of God...that will change them forever and make them comfortable in any and all situations....*
- *the oath of God is what we hold on to...*

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