Genesis 21:15-34

Title: Putting Down Roots

Vs.22-23, An Observation & A Proposition

Vs.24-26, A Reply & A Reproof

Vs.27-31, A Covenant & An Oath

Vs.32-34, A Removing & A Planting

**Vs.21**

God had given Ishamel and Hagar a chance to follow the God who sees, hears, and delivers. Unfortunately it would appear that neither of them ever moved their relationship with God beyond the point of God being a “safety net”.

Hagar was quick to return to the things of the world and to introduce them into the life of her son.

The choice of your spouse is second only to the choice of your god.

“God will hear” if only Ishamel would call.

Ishamal chose to be led by those who were “with him” instead of by the God who was with him.

**Vs.22**

Abimelech recognized the relationship that Abraham had with his God was not just compartmentalized to “religious activities”.

**Vs.23**

Abimelech was recognizing the promise of God and its generational effect and longevity.

Abimelech had experienced the power of Abraham’s God… and unfortunately the unfaithfulness of Abraham.

Abimelech knew however, that Abraham was true to his God even in the face of his failures.

Despite all of his failings it was evident that Abraham and his God were inseparable.

This “new covenant” would affect all future generations.

**Vs.24**

Abraham swore to conditions that he would have kept with or without a covenant.

2 Corinthians 6:14

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

This was not a covenant of fellowship, but of truth and kindness.

Our relationship with the world must never compromise our relationship with our God.

Psalm 15:1-5

1 LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? 2 He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. 3 He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. 4 In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. 5 He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.

Abraham was being given a chance to show himself faithful.

God ALWAYS gives second chances to His people, the problem is, His people do not always choose to take advantage of them.

Proverbs 24:16

For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again.

Luke 17:3-4

3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. 4 And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

**Vs.25**

“Reproved”

judge, to correct, to dispute, to place in the sunshine

Future obedience is not determined by past failure.

Our past lapses in judgment cannot define our future integrity.

Abraham needed to establish the terms by which he and Abimelech would interact.

We also must set the tone for the terms by which we will interact with the world.

Proverbs 25:26

A righteous man falling down before the wicked is as a troubled fountain, and a corrupt spring.

**Vs.26**

I imagine Abimelech is a little nervous about what might happen to him again because of this “prophet”.

Did not know, was not told, did not hear.

Abraham could not expect Abimelech to act upon what he did not know.

Romans 10:14

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed (known)? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher (to tell)?

It will do us no good to argue with people who do not know, have not been told, and have yet to hear of our source of living water.

**Vs.27**

Abraham was leaving no room for doubt as to the question of his integrity.

Abraham’s generosity in the covenant displayed where his true value lay.

Matthew 6:21

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Generosity displays our value system.

2 Corinthians 9:7

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

​​2 Corinthians 4:17-18

7 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

**Vs.28**

Abraham made the most of his witness to the world.

There is no price too high for integrity.

**Vs.29**

This type of integrity was new to Abimelech.

We should always be seeking to live in the higher values of God’s kingdom than the lower values of this world.

That may mean being willing to look like the “odd man out” at times.

**Vs.30**

Instead of arguing with Abimelech to prove his point (vs.25-26), Abraham chose instead to appeal to a covenant established by a lamb.

Instead of trying to prove that what we have is true, we need only to point to the lamb of the new covenant.

Abraham secured his source of living water by a covenant with a lamb.

Abraham valued his source of life more than his material blessings.

Abraham used what he had acquired in the world to honor God.

**Vs.31**

The lasting effect of integrity.

The covenant of the lamb satisfied all claims of the enemy.

**Vs.32**

Proverbs 16:7-8

7 When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him. 8 Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.

The new covenant removed the enemy from the land.

The New Covenant of The Lamb:

- Silenced the disputer

- Satisfied the offended party

- Restored rightful possession

- Brought about reconciliation

- Secured a source of living water

- Affected future generations

Ephesians 2:13-17

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; 16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: 17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

**Vs.33**

Abraham saw that his God was not confined to a specific place or time.

Abraham’s faith did not grow, but his view of the God he had faith in did.

Abraham did not fight for his “rights” so much as he fought to secure his place of communion with God.

Abraham was planted and rooted in the land of the new covenant.

Ephesians 3:16-19

16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; 17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.

**Vs.34**

Abraham now knew that the land of the Philistines was not outside the reach of his God.

There is always someone learning the lessons our lives are teaching.

Genesis 26:18

And Isaac digged again the wells of water, which they had digged in the days of Abraham his father; for the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham: and he called their names after the names by which his father had called them.

1 Timothy 4:12-13

12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. 13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

After the “son of promise” entered Abraham’s life:

- He was reconciled with his enemies

- He is able to live in the world but not of the world

- He received life giving water in exchange for a lamb

- He experienced a greater understanding of who God was

- He was rooted in the land of the new covenant

- His lapses and failures are never seen again

ENDING

- Hagar and Ishamel had a narrow view of God that only saw God’s promises in light of this world.

- Abraham had an eternal view of God that saw all of this world in light of God’s promises.

- Each had access to God’s promise

- Each had access to living water

- Each had a future blessed by God

- Each had experienced God’s power

Only one chose to respond in faith.

It was only after Abraham had secured a source of living water that he was able to put down roots.

Psalm 1:1-3

1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Do you need to be rerooted in God’s Word?

Have you allowed your source of living water to be stolen away by the cares of this world?

Perhaps God wants you to put down a new root into the ground of His love.

Perhaps God wants you to draw from a greater depth in the well of His love.