Genesis Chapter 25 Verses 27 – 34

* This is a ***crazy*** scene!! You almost get this sense like it’s not serious, like it’s all a **joke** or Jacob is just kidding but it turns out to be *quite real* and cause *quite an issue* between the boys in the future. Esau literally is conned into handing over his birthright for a bowl of soup and some bread!
* Now a ***birthright*** is more than just being the man of the house once the patriarch passes away. The birthright meant that you were to be **double blessed**, receive a **double portion of inheritance** than any of your siblings…and that upon the death of your father, you would become the head of the family but also the spiritual leader of the family. ***Esau sold this for a bowl of soup.***
* Jacob was already promised this wasn’t he? God already told Rebekah that the *blessing would be upon Jacob*…that was his ***calling***…but watch this…Jacob used his calling to harm his brother. **Horrible.** Why not just wait, serve him, serve the Lord, ***the blessing would have come***, just as God promised but instead, Jacob ran out in front of God, shamed his brother and drove a forever wedge between them!
* But Esau is certainly to blame too. He sold out for so little. Do you? Barnhouse said it like this, *“History shows that men prefer illusions to realities, choose time rather than eternity, and the pleasures of sin for a season rather than the joys of God forever. Men will read trash rather than the Word of God, and adhere to a system of priorities that leaves God out of their lives. Multitudes of men spend more time shaving than on their souls; and multitudes of women give more minutes to their makeup than to the life of the eternal spirit. Men still sell their birthright for a mess of pottage.”*
* Here’s the thing, folks outside of the faith and even unfortunately folks inside of the faith will at times allow themselves to be used to tempt you to ***sell out*** and deny what God has for you…**No.** It’s a simple answer, a simple decision, a simple resolution but ***so extremely entirely rare***…No. I would rather my flesh go hungry…or maybe you’re the Jacob…just that *chip* on your shoulder, that power that you yield over someone else…you can use it to gain for yourself…No. It’s a simple answer, a simple decision, a simple resolution but **so extremely entirely rare**.

Genesis Chapter 26 Verses 1 - 5

* This is interesting. God says to Isaac, *“Don’t go down to Egypt…Dwell in this land* (it’s a little bit harder here in the short term, you’ll have to put in some work here) *but dwell in this land and I will be with you and bless you…”* So ***what if*** he had gone to Egypt? There is an implication here and a truth that is so very important to note especially in this day and age! If Isaac had gone down to Egypt, to the world, where he did not belong and to a place where God had told him not to go…***then God would NOT be with him and would NOT bless him.***
* Folks, here’s the point. God cannot, forget ‘will not’, ***He cannot bless sin.*** ***He cannot bless the things in our lives that are contrary to His direction.*** So many think and expect God to bless their sinful *mindsets, actions, situations*, and so on. Why? You know who blesses sin? **Satan**…but his blessing is horridly different than God’s. God blesses you to freedom, Satan blesses you with more sin…*depravity of character, denial of the word of God and overall deception of heart.* This society we live in today is greatly blessed, isn’t it?
* That’s heavy I know but here is the lighter…God will be with and God will bless you tremendously and consistently/contently and ***assuredly*** when I walk in accordance with His will, direction and Word! **Count on it!** In just a minute we will see what God does when the son of promise makes his own willful decision to stay in the land of promise EVEN THOUGH he is still an imperfect man! I just love that! **SUCH HOPE!!**

Genesis Chapter 26 Verses 6 – 11

* This was ***obviously*** a big problem in those days. If you were a man married to a *beautiful* woman then you were in real danger of being killed for her sake…to free her up. And so Isaac wrote a song…, “*If you want to be happy for the rest of YOUR LIFE, never make a pretty woman YOUR WIFE!”* **HA!!** That’s a funny joke sometimes around my house…well, funny for ***me*** anyway! HA!
* Let me just say though, ladies, know that this has survived a bit in today’s ways as well. Oh you won’t get killed for your pretty wife, perhaps not in *this country* but men you know, there are **definite concerns** and **anxieties** over having a *beautiful* wife. And I have to be careful here because I want to get this exhortation through without offense. If your man doesn’t want to go to a restaurant or to a movie or to the mall or there’s hesitation there…ladies, please, consider for a minute that there might be an issue with *how you treat him in public.*
* Here’s what I mean. ***You look good and you know it.*** You got the boots on, the makeups, your hair did right…men, we got on the same jeans we wore yesterday, sneakers and bald. **HA!** We can’t, at least *I can’t* keep up with how good my wife looks ALL the time and EVERYWHERE. And so if we were to go somewhere and she *walks ahead of me, catches eye contact with metro-men* (you know, men in boots, hard did right, maybe even some makeups) then I’m going to **grow weary** of that junk *real quick.*
* BUT, if she is on MY arm…catching eye contact with ME often…smiling at me and overall showing respect and ***endearment*** to me…then Abimelech is going to look at me and say, ***SHE LIKES YOU!*** And my confidence is going to surge! My heart is going to swell…my chest may even swell up a little bit…and I’m going to want to go all kinds of places. She’s ready to go home and you’re like, *“Oh what about Nordy’s!?”* HA! ***Ladies, help us out a little bit***…men have more of a problem with this then you know…
* And so did Isaac. Now check this out. Abraham did the same thing, didn’t he? But here’s the kicker…Sarah really was Abraham’s sister…Rebekah was not Isaac’s sister. Where am I going with this? Dad, as you battle with sin in your own life, here’s something that will help you stay the course and turn from that sin. ***Whatever you do, you’re son will do worse.*** Sin has a way of doing that when it goes unchecked in a father’s life…same with moms…

Genesis Chapter 26 Verses 12 – 23

* There is some ***major messaging*** going on here…the Philistines had stopped up the wells dug by Abraham…that is to say very clearly, *“We don’t want you here.”* ***Water meant life.*** If there was no water, there could be no life there…and so these wells being filled in is a *clear message.* And so Isaac, and this is cool, ***begins to dig again…***
* He begins to dig for himself…he could have gone down to Egypt…plenty of water there, but he chooses to work, to stay where the Lord would have him even though there is great resistance…and the first well is good…*living, running* water…the best kind of well, but the herdsmen quarrel with him…so he names the well Esek which means, *“Contention.”* Then the second well, again there is difficulty from others over the well, so he names it Sitnah which means, *“Resistance.”* Finally he ***moves a bit*** and digs another well and with this one there is peace and so he calls it, *“Rehoboth,”* which means *“wide open spaces.”*
* I like this illustration…Isaac could have launched *World War Gerar*…but he was *meek*, desired the will of the Lord…trusted the word of the Lord…the Lord said, *“Dwell here, I will be with you and I will bless you…”* And so he put in work, he dug. Maybe you’ve dug a well where the Lord has called you. A *ministry* or an *effort at home* or a *resolution at work*…to do what is right…and just as soon as that well starts to bring forth some good water, **contention.**
* I’ve found that ***people become envious pretty easily.*** And our nature is to challenge and to test the things around us…*put stuff to the test.* And so you start doing something good, *and they’re not*, contention often arises. Is it time for World War Gerar in your heart? No. Dig again. And often times the second well, the second ministry, the second effort the second resolution…is met now not so much with *contention* but with *resistance.* Contention is offense, resistance is defense…is it time to bomb? To press hard for that well or *your way*, I should say? Most people do…God would say, **dig again**…keep going…and eventually, you hit *wide spaces*…***after you move*** (*change, grow up, mature*) a little bit…

Genesis Chapter 26 Verses 23 – 25

* He built an altar, called on the name of the Lord…**then** he pitched his tent…his priorities are in order.

Genesis Chapter 26 Verses 26 – 29

* They have **not** been good to him but notice what they say, *“We have done nothing to you but good…”* This is amazing…and I ***know*** you’ve ran into this…people that treat you like absolute dirt, make you feel so ultra un-important…and yet they fool themselves, *being self deceived*, thinking that they are just fine, justified in how they treat you…What does Isaac do? Call them out? No, he takes the opportunity to build a bridge…He honors the Lord…I pray I do and will do the same…

Genesis Chapter 26 Verses 30 – 33

* *“Shebah”* literally means, *“oath.”* But to Isaac it means so much more…it means to him the time after time that he accepted wrong in order *to serve and to obey and to love on and worship the Lord*…and to this day, the Bible says, it is called, *“Beersheba,”* which literally means *“The Well of the Oath.”* I’ll tell you what, there is hidden away living water for those that will follow the Lord through their hurt…Jesus said, “*If anyone thirsts, come to Me…”* Christian, this is how…

Genesis Chapter 26 Verses 34 – 35

* Esau is down a bad path…almost exactly opposite of his brother Isaac…In Genesis 24 Abraham had commanded that his sons **not** marry the women of Canaan and yet Esau had done it, twice…and so all of this resistance and contention from the *Gerarians*…the worst seems to be from Esau as Isaac sees the path that he is on…