



SOJOURNING & THE BLESSING OF THE LORD

GENESIS 26:1-5



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the sojourning life, and to wait for the unforeseen distant blessings from His hand. Isaac is Abraham's son and God's promise is attached to Isaac's offspring. He says, "in your offspring the nations of the earth will be blessed" and he points to Abraham's faith and obedience. Now it is time for Isaac to respond to God's grace with obedience. Now it is time for Isaac to walk in his father's footsteps and obey God's commands. And Isaac does just that; he takes God at His Word and obeys His instructions.

"And the Lord appeared to him and said, 'Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you.'" Genesis 26: 2

Have you ever asked God for direction? How about when you find yourself in a desperate situation? Isaac finds himself in the midst of a famine. Isaac makes his way to Abimelech, the king of the Philistines, and it's there that God appears to him. In His appearance, God gives Isaac some instructions.

Isaac was Abraham's long-awaited son. He was a clear provision from God to a promise God had spoken to Abraham. What's interesting about Genesis 26 is that it sounds a lot like the words spoken to Abraham back in Genesis 12, 17 and even 22. In Genesis 26 we clearly see God working through the generations of his people. Isaac was in the middle of family life. His father Abraham had died not long before, and even more recent than that, his wife, Rebekah, had given birth to twins (Jacob and Esau). During these family transitions, God appears to Isaac to remind Him of His faithfulness and promises.

God appears before Isaac and tells him to forego the plenty of Egypt for the scarcity of

It would be nice to have God appear to us today as He did for Isaac. However, let us not forget through God's appearance He asked Isaac to trust Him during scarcity. And frankly, we may have something even better than an appearance from God. God gives us the same message, albeit at a different point of fulfillment. God has come near to us and has given us His Word through His son, Jesus. He appeared through Jesus on this earth and now we hold in our hands the Word of God and we can always refer to His Word repeatedly. God has also promised to one day renew all things through the new heavens and earth. That is our promised land. And the nations were to be blessed through us when Jesus told His disciples to go to all the nations to baptize them in the name of the father, son and Holy Spirit. It can be hard to wait. It can be hard to take God at His Word. However, if we look back on the long history of God's people, we can see God's faithfully appearing and speaking of His Word and how it never lacks fulfillment. This Advent, consider how Jesus came near to us – even as a baby – and trusted in the Father's will for His mission here on earth, so that many may be blessed through His grace expressed through His death on the cross and resurrection.

God, You have faithfully appeared to Your people for generations. And now, You lead us through Your Word, asking us to follow Your commands as a response to experiencing Your grace in our lives. Help us to follow You even when the path is not incredibly clear, knowing Your Word is true. Amen.