

Sermon Outlines

Isaac's intercessory Prayer and The Birth of The Babies

Readings

Genesis 25 - Various verses as it suits the speaker

Communications with God

- 1) Notice that God spoke to Rebekah – not Isaac her husband. He also spoke first to Samson's mother (Jud. 13:1-6); and Mary (Lk. 1:31).
- 2) The good and bad news
 - a) The bad news, Rebekah was barren.
 - i) Sometimes in life, it is so difficult to accept the obvious, a door shuts.
 - b) But Isaac and Rebekah didn't try to find an earthly solution for infertility like Abraham and Sarah. They didn't resort to concubines, they didn't give up hope or turn their backs on God.
 - c) Isaac kept on praying, kept on hoping, kept on believing (Gen. 25:21). God had promised to make Isaac, Abraham's son, a great nation, and Isaac never doubted Him.
 - d) Praying for a baby and interceding with the Lord, the Source of all life, is an exercise both Isaac and Jacob did.
 - i) Interestingly, in 1 Samuel Elkanah did not intercede for His wife Hannah to have a child, but Hannah herself did.
 - ii) In the case of Zachariah and Elizabeth, they prayed, and when it seemed impossible God answered their prayer.
 - iii) There are several lessons we can learn:
 1. God is no respecter of persons when an individual prays to Him
 2. He heard the prayers of Cornelius even though he was an unsaved man (Acts 10:2)
 3. God at times waits until we come to a complete end of our endeavours and then works (Lk. 8:43)
 4. If we pray according to His will He hears us and we have the petitions requested (1 Jn. 5:14-15)
 - e) Perhaps his father's experience had taught him to wait upon the Lord.
 - i) We can learn the lessons of faith from others.
 - ii) Abraham was promised that he would be the father of many nations (Rom. 4:13), but Sarah's womb was barren for another 25 years.
 1. Isaac knew that story, he was living proof that God's promises never fail. He didn't lose hope.
 2. That's how it has to be with us. What God says He will do. (Isa. 55:11)
 3. If we believe Him, like Isaac, we will have hope and patience during the waiting. (Rom 5: 1-5)
 4. We'll experience peace in the waiting, and have confidence despite the waiting. (2 Cor. 1:20)
- 3) The good news, Rebekah was not going to have one baby, but two babies!
 - a) And the LORD said to her: "Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people, And the elder shall serve the younger."
 - b) This verse is the key to understanding Romans 9. These aren't two children in her womb, but two nations. Not two people, but two peoples.
 - i) God's not saying that Jacob would be stronger because Esau was the outdoorsman, the burly hunter, the man's man. Jacob was just a mama's boy.

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- ii) God is saying that the nation of Jacob would be stronger than the people of Esau. Now, with that in mind, let's turn to the book of Romans.
- iii) Compare Genesis 25 to Romans 9:10.
 - 1. The word children should be in italics in your bible because it's not in the original Greek. It says, "for having not been born yet."
 - 2. The translators inserted "children, or boys" to complete the thought, but they should have checked with Genesis 25 first. They should have used the word nations because that's what God said to Rebekah. For the nations not having been born yet, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls.

The Birth of The Twins

When the time for the birth came, Esau was being born first, then it happened. Jacob grabbed Esau's heel and was born first. Preeminence was the character of that little baby, nothing was going to stop him, he was a strong-willed independent child, and his father loved him.

- a) His brother Esau was a home buddy, he liked the finer things in life and his mother loved him.
- b) Jacob became a hunter, he loved the thrill of the chase, the taste of meat, and getting covered with blood did not annoy him, but Jacob was perhaps a vegetarian, lentils etc.
- c) He was a man of the world, the scriptures called them "earth dwellers". They live for the moment, thinking nothing of eternity or spiritual things.
- d) Esau was named because of how he looked at birth.
- e) Jacob was named for something he did at birth.

Considerations

- 1) Did their names convey their character?
- 2) Were their names self-fulfilling?
- 3) What encouragement or discouragement can be given by nicknames?
- 4) These boys turned out the way they did and outlived their names.

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

Rowan Jennings, Abbotsford, British Columbia