

Sermon Outlines

The Decisions Made

Reading:

Genesis 26:1-6

Introduction

- 1) Oftentimes we overlook the reality that no saint is not needed or has nothing they can do for the Lord. In grace, there has been given to every saint a work, whether they are male or female. In the building of the Tabernacle, the women as well as the men were involved in the construction. So with the church. Each saint has been given a task. Some are public and others private. Some are fitted for a platform and some for personal, some for the mission field others are to stay at home, some make clothing for babies etc. in mission outposts, others at the mission stations assist the people with the clothes and it assists in the reception of the gospel.
- 2) Sadly there are times when, due to various reasons, individuals are not happy with the task God has given and a decision is made to do a different work.
- 3) Each of us ought to fine-tune the work God has given us and not make bad decisions.
- 4) God calls the local assembly a husbandry "a tilled field" (1 Cor. 3:9). At times there is plentiful and other times there is dearth of the Spirit's working.
- 5) Isaac faced the same problem only his was regarding his wheat for there was a famine in the land.
- 6) He gives us work to do, the energy to work, and bodies that can utilize the food our wages supply. Inadvertently we possibly subconsciously think in thine heart, "My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth (Deut. 8:17).
- 7) That which God has given to us must be cared for. Adam was told to, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it" (Gen. 1:28). He was to care for that which God had given him responsibility for.
- 8) This was a matter Isaac was conscious of and when a famine came, "What was he to do?"
- 9) Decisions we all must make. Later in life we often wonder, "Did we make the right decision?"

The Decision To Be Made

Famine, whether it is agricultural or spiritual, indicates a very serious problem.

- a) Isaac had large herds of sheep and other animals that he inherited from Abraham and they relied on grass and hay to survive. What was he to do? Trust God despite the famine or go to Egypt?
- b) What should he do? God said to stay in the land, I will be with you, but common sense prompts us to consider, ought we not move to where there are fields for our flocks to graze in?
 - i) Was it logical for Peter to step out of the boat and walk on the seas?
 - ii) Was it logical for Jonah to offer to be cast into the sea?
 - iii) Was it logical for Paul and Silas to sing while in prison?
 - iv) Was it logical for Daniel to pray with open windows after the king gave a command?
 - v) Was it logical for the three Hebrew children to refuse to bow to the image?
 - vi) When it comes to the things of God, how does one know which is the best decision?
- c) Wisdom compels us to look after that which God has given to us, so logically Isaac must care for his flock for the glory of God.
 - i) God had told Isaac He would be with him. Human logic must never override God's commands or promises.
 - ii) He must also care for them for that is prudent. That's why shepherds would lead their flocks to green pastures wherever they could find them.
- d) Why does God bring us to major decision making?

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- i) To remind man that there is a more powerful authority than he and it is not “Mother Nature”, it is God speaking.
- ii) God allows trials to come into our lives, why?
 - 1. That we might be assured of our being His children (Heb. 12:5-8).
 - 2. The trials are not always because of wrongdoing, cp Job.
 - 3. The making of decisions is allowed by God in order that we seek Him and find Him (Acts 17:27).
 - 4. To test us relative to where we put our trust and to whom or where we turn to.

Issac Made The Decision

Despite God telling him not to go to Egypt (Gen. 26:2) and despite God telling him He would be with Isaac (Gen. 26:2-3), Isaac made the wrong decision.

Who Ought We To Follow?

- 1) Paul in his following of Christ (1 Cor. 11:1)
- 2) The exhortation of Paul to the Ephesians (Eph. 5:1)
- 3) The exhortation of Paul to the Thessalonians (1 Thess. 1:6; 2:14)
- 4) The exhortation of Peter (1 Pet. 2:21)

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

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