BACK TO THE BEGINNING
GENESIS
Isaac
Like Father, Like Son
Genesis 26:1-33
Bethel Community Church
Rev. Bradley S. Belcher, Senior Pastor

Like Father, Like Son

Like Father, Like Son

Genesis 26:1-33 Now there was a famine in the land, besides the former famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Gerar to Abimelech king of the Philistines. 2 And the Lord appeared to him and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you. 3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. -

Like Father, Like Son

4 I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, 5 because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.” 6 So Isaac settled in Gerar. 7 When the men of the place asked him about his wife, he said, “She is my sister,” for he feared to say, “My wife,” thinking, “lest the men of the place should kill me because of Rebekah,” because she was attractive in appearance. -

Like Father, Like Son

8 When he had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out of a window and saw Isaac laughing with Rebekah his wife. 9 So Abimelech called Isaac and said, “Behold, she is your wife. How then could you say, ‘She is my sister’?” Isaac said to him, “Because I thought, ‘Lest I die because of her.’” 10 Abimelech said, “What is this you have done to us? One of the people might easily have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us.” -

Like Father, Like Son

11 So Abimelech warned all the people, saying, “Whoever touches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death.” 12 And Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. The Lord blessed him, 13 and the man became rich, and gained more and more until he became very wealthy. 14 He had possessions of flocks and herds and many servants, so that the Philistines envied him. 15 (Now the Philistines had stopped and filled with earth all the wells that his father's servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father.) -

Like Father, Like Son

16 And Abimelech said to Isaac, “Go away from us, for you are much mightier than we.” 17 So Isaac departed from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar and settled there. 18 And Isaac dug again the wells of water that had been dug in the days of Abraham his father, which the Philistines had stopped after the death of Abraham. And he gave them the names that his father had given them. 19 But when Isaac's servants dug in the valley and found there a well of spring water, -

Like Father, Like Son

20 the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen, saying, “The water is ours.” So he called the name of the well Esek, because they contended with him. 21 Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that also, so he called its name Sitnah. 22 And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name Rehoboth, saying, “For now the Lord has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.” 23 From there he went up to Beersheba. -

Like Father, Like Son

24 And the Lord appeared to him the same night and said, “I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply your offspring for my servant Abraham's sake.” 25 So he built an altar there and called upon the name of the Lord and pitched his tent there. And there Isaac's servants dug a well. 26 When Abimelech went to him from Gerar with Ahuzzath his adviser and Phicol the commander of his army, -

Like Father, Like Son

27 Isaac said to them, “Why have you come to me, seeing that you hate me and have sent me away from you?” 28 They said, “We see plainly that the Lord has been with you. So we said, let there be a sworn pact between us, between you and us, and let us make a covenant with you, 29 that you will do us no harm, just as we have not touched you and have done to you nothing but good and have sent you away in peace. You are now the blessed of the Lord.” 30 So he made them a feast, and they ate and drank. -

Like Father, Like Son

31 In the morning they rose early and exchanged oaths. And Isaac sent them on their way, and they departed from him in peace. 32 That same day Isaac's servants came and told him about the well that they had dug and said to him, “We have found water.” 33 He called it Shibah; therefore the name of the city is Beersheba to this day. (ESV)

Like Father, Like Son

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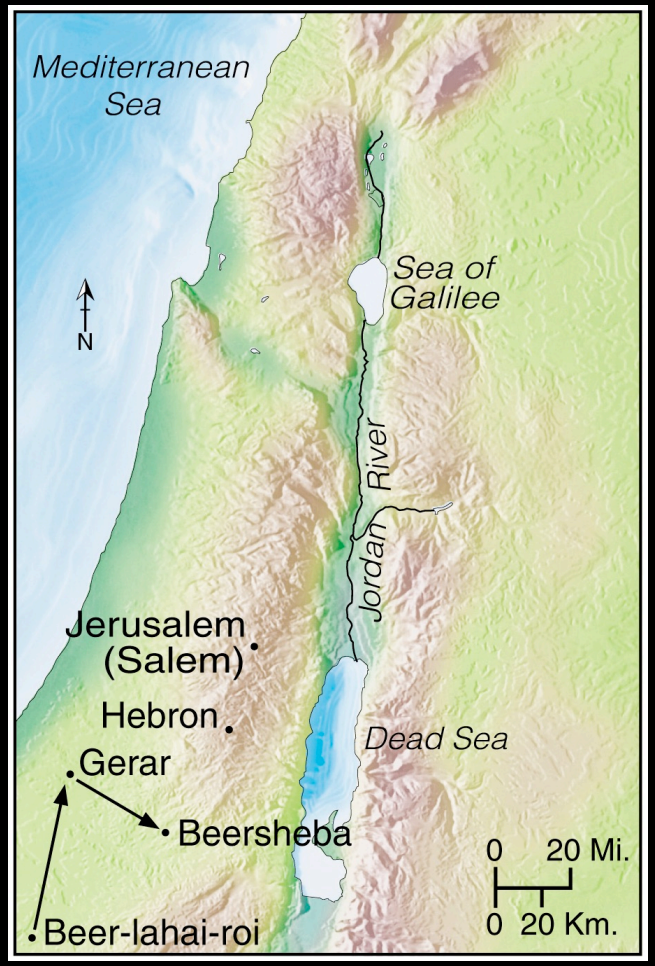
I. God will direct our paths.

A. He often uses circumstances to redirect us.

1 Now there was a famine in the land, besides the former famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Gerar to Abimelech king of the Philistines.



- Isaac had settled near Beer-lahai-roi (“the well of the Living One who sees me”), where his sons, Jacob and Esau, were born.
- A famine drove him to Gerar. But when he became wealthy, his jealous neighbors asked him to leave.
- From Gerar he moved to Beersheba.

Like Father, Like Son

I. God will direct our paths.

A. He often uses circumstances to redirect us.

1 Now there was a famine in the land, besides the former famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Gerar to Abimelech king of the Philistines.

Like Father, Like Son

I. God will direct our paths.

B. He will make it clear where we should go.

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

Like Father, Like Son

I. God will direct our paths.

C. He will bless us as we trust him.

- By blessing us with His presence.

3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you

Like Father, Like Son

I. God will direct our paths.

C. He will bless us as we trust him.

- By blessing us with a place.

for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands,

Like Father, Like Son

I. God will direct our paths.

C. He will bless us as we trust him.

- By blessing us with His promises.

and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father.

Like Father, Like Son

I. God will direct our paths.

C. He will bless us as we trust him.

- By making us a blessing to others.

4 I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give your offspring all these lands, and in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; 5 because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes and my laws."

Like Father, Like Son

II. We need to walk in integrity.

A. Our children are shaped by our level of integrity.

6 So Isaac settled in Gerar. 7 When the men of the place asked him about his wife, he said, "She is my sister," for he feared to say, "My wife," thinking, "lest the men of the place should kill me because of Rebekah," because she was attractive in appearance.

Like Father, Like Son

II. We need to walk in integrity.

B. Our lack of integrity will eventually be exposed.

8 When he had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out of a window and saw Isaac laughing with Rebekah his wife.

- *Numbers 32:23 …be sure your sin will find you out.*

Like Father, Like Son

II. We need to walk in integrity.

C. Deceitfulness has incredible destructive power.

9 So Abimelech called Isaac and said, "Behold, she is your wife. How then could you say, 'She is my sister '?" Isaac said to him, "Because I thought, ' Lest I die because of her. '" 10 Abimelech said, "What is this you have done to us? One of the people might easily have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us." -

Like Father, Like Son

II. We need to walk in integrity.

C. Deceitfulness has incredible destructive power.

11 So Abimelech warned all the people, saying, "Whoever touches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death."

- *John 8:34-36 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*

Like Father, Like Son

III. We need to walk in peace.

A. Even when we are envied by others.

12And Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. The Lord blessed him, 13 and the man became rich, and gained more and more until he became very wealthy. 14 He had possessions of flocks and herds and many servants, so that the Philistines envied him.

Like Father, Like Son

III. We need to walk in peace.

B. Even when we are sabotaged.

15 (Now the Philistines had stopped and filled with earth all the wells that his father's servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father.)

Like Father, Like Son

III. We need to walk in peace.

C. Even when we are dismissed or disdained.

16 And Abimelech said to Isaac, "Go away from us, for you are much mightier than we." 17 So Isaac departed from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar and settled there.

Like Father, Like Son

III. We need to walk in peace.

C. Even when we are dismissed or disdained.

- *Romans 12:18-21 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, " Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." -*

Like Father, Like Son

III. We need to walk in peace.

C. Even when we are dismissed or disdained.

- *20 To the contrary, " if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Like Father, Like Son

III. We need to walk in peace.

D. Even when faced with ongoing opposition.

18 And Isaac dug again the wells of water that had been dug in the days of Abraham his father, which the Philistines had stopped after the death of Abraham. And he gave them the names that his father had given them. 19 But when Isaac's servants dug in the valley and found there a well of spring water, -

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III. We need to walk in peace.

D. Even when faced with ongoing opposition.

20 the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen, saying, "The water is ours." So he called the name of the well Esek, because they contended with him. 21 Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that also, so he called its name Sitnah.

Like Father, Like Son

III. We need to walk in peace.

E. Until God grants us peace.

22 And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name Rehoboth, saying, "For now the Lord has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land."

- *Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*

Like Father, Like Son

IV. We need to walk in submission.

A. As He reveals Himself to us.

23 From there he went up to Beersheba. 24 And the Lord appeared to him the same night

Like Father, Like Son

IV. We need to walk in submission.

B. As He comforts us with His presence.

and said, "I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for I am with you

Like Father, Like Son

IV. We need to walk in submission.

C. As He blesses us.

24 and will bless you and multiply your offspring for my servant Abraham's sake."

Like Father, Like Son

IV. We need to walk in submission.

D. As we continue to call on the name of the Lord.

25 So he built an altar there and called upon the name of the Lord and pitched his tent there. And there Isaac's servants dug a well.

Like Father, Like Son

V. We need to walk in love.

A. Even when we are suspicious.

26 When Abimelech went to him from Gerar with Ahuzzath his adviser and Phicol the commander of his army, 27 Isaac said to them, "Why have you come to me, seeing that you hate me and have sent me away from you?"

Like Father, Like Son

V. We need to walk in love.

B. Even when others make questionable requests.

28 They said, "We see plainly that the Lord has been with you. So we said, let there be a sworn pact between us, between you and us, and let us make a covenant with you, 29 that you will do us no harm, just as we have not touched you and have done to you nothing but good and have sent you away in peace. You are now the blessed of the Lord."

Like Father, Like Son

V. We need to walk in love.

C. By graciously serving others.

30 So he made them a feast, and they ate and drank.

Like Father, Like Son

V. We need to walk in love.

D. By keeping our word.

31 In the morning they rose early and exchanged oaths. And Isaac sent them on their way, and they departed from him in peace. 32 That same day Isaac's servants came and told him about the well that they had dug and said to him, "We have found water." 33 He called it Shibah; therefore the name of the city is Beersheba to this day.

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God will always direct our paths as we walk with Him in integrity, peace, submission and love. As we depend on Him we can find the stability and security we are longing for in our lives.

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