

Cherished-Chosen-Challenged – February 14, 2010

Now It Came To Pass....

“Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham...” – Genesis 22:1

Abraham is considered to be a giant of faith. Along with others listed in Hebrews 11 (the faith chapter) Abraham is held forth as an example because of what faith in God's promises led him to do. We can feel small and insignificant by comparison when we read about the giants of faith in the Scriptures and all they accomplished. We might even count these giants of faith as more worthy than we ourselves to receive God's favor. Nothing could be further from the truth. Abraham's faith in God was tested greatly. He and wife Sarah were childless. God promised him an heir from his own body and that he would have descendents as countless as the stars in the heavens. However, things were not progressing as planned and Sarah and Abraham devised a plan to “help” God. Ishmael, son of Abraham and Hagar, handmaiden of Sarah, was born soon after their plan was hatched. God was not amused. Neither was He grateful for their help. They had failed to trust the promise of God. But when Abraham and Sarah were well past child bearing age, God gave them a son whom they named Isaac and they knew this was accomplished only by the power and promise of the Word of the Lord.

God would again show Abraham what it means to be a man of faith. Abraham is tested by God to see if he will now trust God's Word of promise, for he is told to take his only son Isaac and sacrifice him on a mountain that God will show him. What an agonizing and severe test of faith. God promised an heir and now He is taking Him away. How could God command such a thing? By the grace and mercy of God, Abraham had learned to trust God even in humanly impossible situations, for the Scriptures plainly testify that Abraham believed God, “accounting that God was able to raise him (Isaac) up, even from the dead....” (Hebrews 11:19) Abraham did what God told him even when he did not understand, firmly clinging to God's unchangeable promise!

What has come to pass in your life? What tests of faith are you facing today? Is the challenge more than you can humanly bear? Is God asking of you the impossible? Have you learned to trust God unconditionally? Lean on the promises of God! You are His cherished and chosen child, an heir of the kingdom in Christ Jesus, who died and rose for you! Even if death assails you, the promise of heaven through faith in Christ Jesus is unchanging! Cling to the Word. Trust God alone for bodily and spiritual blessing, for He is able to do more than you can imagine or ask. In Christ, pass the test---receive the reward. For through Christ our Savior, we too, like Abraham, are counted among the giants of faith!

- ❖ Remember: You are God's chosen people. Don't forget the promise. God is always with us, even when He tests us with challenges beyond what we think we can bear, He never forsakes us.
- ❖ Remember: Human plans and devices always fail. God is always faithful to His Word, even if His purpose is hidden to us at the time we are tested. Be every Sunday people! Learn the unfailing promises of God. Share the Good News with others, especially in the times of their trials and testing!

How blessed we are to be the people of God. He has chosen us to be in this place. He has prepared us for this time. **Don't wait for someone else to do it. If you wait on someone else to do it...it will never get done!** God bless you in the growth of your faith and in service to Him and His people, for your labor in the Lord is never in vain.

Pastor Jacobs

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