

Genesis 26

This text is a summary, for a full expression of the sermon please download the audio file.

Drought Water and Wisdom- The setting for those who are in the desert.

III- <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-29/soaking-up-australias-drought-natural-sequence-farming/10312844>

At Mulloon Creek, the two men set to work building Mr Andrews's signature "leaky weirs" in the creek, one of many crucial steps in a complex plan to restore the landscape's original processes.

Using rocks, fallen trees and other natural debris, a weir is constructed across the creek, not to stop the water from flowing through, but to slow the water down.

It then has a chance to seep into the landscape on either side, rather than gushing down the creek system and straight out to sea, taking important nutrients with it.

This is why Mulloon Creek is still running, even though there has been little rain. That water, which was stored in the landscape, is now seeping back into the creek.

Peacemaking

Romans 12:18 (NLT) Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

God promises to Isaac, because of Abraham

After Abraham died, God spoke to Isaac. He told Isaac to stay in Palestine and promised to fulfil the oath which He swore to Isaac's father (26:3). The obedience of faith had kept Abraham in the place of blessing; now Isaac was exhorted to trust and obey and assured that through his line the original promise would be kept.

An express personal promise is communicated as well. God promised to be with this man, Isaac, to bless him (v. 3). God was not making a new covenant. The covenant had already been established with Abraham. Abraham's descendants were simply invited to participate in it; there was no need to constantly renew a promise once given.

Larry Richards and Lawrence O. Richards, *The Teacher's Commentary* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1987), 62.

"That's a picture of grace. God isn't going to do all of this because of anything Isaac's done. He's doing it for Abraham's sake. And I say that's a picture of grace because that's exactly how it is with us as Christians. All that God gives us – forgiveness of sins, redemption, justification, salvation, sanctification, and eventually glorification... He gives us all those things and so much more... for CHRIST'S SAKE! All of those things are ours, because of what Jesus did! Not what we do, or don't do. It's because of Jesus."-Ken Mckinley

God's promise to us, through Jesus, not our efforts.

Note, Those that must live by faith have need often to review, and repeat to themselves, the promises they are to live upon, especially when they are called to any instance of suffering or self-denial.

Matthew Henry, Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 59.

Mountains and Valleys

Isaac lies and shows lack of trust in God's protection- you need friends in the valley, mountaintop experiences are great for faith and should be shared, but emotions are never the basis for faith, and as such when tests come, strong relationships with other believers is God's answer to help us through.

The King Abimelech shows more integrity towards God than Isaac.

Abimelech charged him with the fraud (v. 9), showed him how frivolous his excuse was and what might have been the bad consequences of it (v. 10), and then, to convince him how groundless and unjust his jealousy of them was, took him and his family under his particular protection, forbidding any injury to be done to him or his wife upon pain of death, v. 11.

Note, 1. A lying tongue is but for a moment. Truth is the daughter of time; and, in time, it will come out. 2. One sin is often the inlet to many, and therefore the beginnings of sin ought to be avoided. 3. The sins of professors shame them before those that are without. 4. God can make those that are incensed against his people, though there may be some colour of cause for it, to know that it is at their peril if they do them any hurt. See Ps. 105:14, 15.

Matthew Henry, Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 60.

Isaac plants land and God blesses him.

God blessed him with a great increase. He reaped a hundredfold; and there seems to be an emphasis laid upon the time: it was that same year when there was a famine in the land; while others scarcely reaped at all, he reaped thus plentifully. See Isa. 65:13, My servants shall eat, but you shall be hungry, Ps. 37:19, In the days of famine they shall be satisfied.

Matthew Henry, Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 60.

King Abimelech sends him away (seeing Isaac as a threat)

Peacemaking- Sometimes it's just wise to walk away.

He opened the wells that his father had digged (v. 18), and out of respect to his father called them by the same names that he had given them. Note, In our searches after truth, that fountain of living water, it is good to make use of the discoveries of former ages, which have been clouded by the corruptions of later times. Enquire for the old way, the wells which our

fathers digged, which the adversaries of truth have stopped up: Ask thy elders, and they shall teach thee.

Matthew Henry, Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 60.

"Yea now (יַעַתָּהּ, as in Gen. 29:32, etc.) Jehovah has provided for us a broad space, that we may be fruitful (multiply) in the land." This well was probably not in the land of Gerar, as Isaac had removed thence, but in the Wady Ruhaibeh, the name of which is suggestive of Rehoboth, which stands at the point where the two roads from Gaza and Hebron meet, about 3 hours to the south of Elusa, 8 1/3 to the south of Beersheba,

Carl Friedrich Keil and Franz Delitzsch, Commentary on the Old Testament, vol. 1 (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996), 174.

Isaac's Journey to Beersheba.—Here, Where Abraham had spent a long time (Gen. 21:33ff.), Jehovah appeared to him during the night and renewed the promises already given; upon which, Isaac built an altar and performed a solemn service. Here his servants also dug a well near to the tents.

Carl Friedrich Keil and Franz Delitzsch, Commentary on the Old Testament, vol. 1 (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996), 174–175.

SLIDES

THE WELL OF OPPOSITION

20 But the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen, saying, "The water is ours." So he called the name of the well Esek,[a] because they quarreled with him

1. Esek – Means Lawsuit or argument
2. Envy can develop into opposition

THE WELL OF ACCUSATION

21 Then they dug another well, and they quarrelled over that one also. So he called its name Sitnah.

1. Sitnah – Means Satan or Accuser
2. A person you never quarrelled before can suddenly spread accusations and slander you

THE WELL OF FREEDOM

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

1. Rehoboth – Means Open Space"

Isaac makes a covenant with Abimelech.

Matthew 5:39-48

"But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. "If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. "Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two.

"Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you. "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. "For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? "If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Where do we rely upon God in our lives for his providence? Isaac entertains him and his company and enters into a league of friendship with him, v. 30, 31.

Here see how generous the good man was, 1. In giving: He made them a feast, and bade them welcome. (2.) In forgiving. He did not insist upon the unkindnesses they had done him, but freely entered into a covenant of friendship with them, and bound himself never to do them any injury. Note, Religion teaches us to be neighbourly, and, as much as in us lies, to live peaceably with all men.

Matthew Henry, Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 60.

God speaks, and Isaac builds an Altar.

"An altar speaks of DEDICATION. Possibly NO-ONE knew the cost of full dedication more than Isaac. "So, he built an altar there, and called on the name of the Lord." - Rev Dr L.Vergheze

This and the reference to similar events in Abrahams life is corroborated by;

"The reality of the occurrence is supported by the fact that the two wells are in existence still (vid., Gen. 21:31)."

Carl Friedrich Keil and Franz Delitzsch, Commentary on the Old Testament, vol. 1 (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996), 175.

Esau marries outside of the clan.

Meanwhile, Esau grows to manhood and marries pagan women. This distresses his parents, whose own marriage was so clearly guided by God. Isaac expects Esau to inherit the promise, and his choice of wife will be important. But Esau doesn't care about such things.

Andrew Knowles, The Bible Guide, 1st Augsburg books ed. (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg, 2001), 34.

Esau married two wives in the 40th year of his age, the 100th of Isaac's life (Gen. 25:26); and that not from his own relations in Mesopotamia, but from among the Canaanites whom God had cast off. On their names, see Gen. 34:2, 3. They became "bitterness of spirit," the cause of deep trouble, to his parents, viz., on account of their Canaanitish character, which

was so opposed to the vocation of the patriarchs; whilst Esau by these marriages furnished another proof, how thoroughly his heart was set upon earthly things.

Carl Friedrich Keil and Franz Delitzsch, Commentary on the Old Testament, vol. 1 (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996), 175.

The seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman.

We see here something about the character of Esau... If you remember Abraham didn't want Isaac marrying the people of the land... he had his servant go and pick a wife from his own people, not from the Philistines or the Hittites. But Esau, he just goes out and finds himself two Hittite women and marries them. And if you remember; God had told Abraham that He would judge the Hittites and that they would not possess the land. And what Scripture is implying here is that there's actually a spiritual reality behind all of this stuff that's taking place in the physical world. Esau's doing all of this because of the condition of his soul... his heart isn't right with God, and so you see how it's playing out in his life.

Application.

How to deal with the circumstances around you?- Peacemaking opportunities.

1. Know the promises of God apply to your life
2. Seek the company of like-minded believers
3. Treat those in opposition to you in the context of the gospel.

The power of forgiveness. How approaching a new way of thinking, turning from the old towards the new can see a breaking of spiritual habits.

Romans 12:14-16 (NLT) Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. 15 Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!

Romans 12:9-13 (NLT) Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. 10 Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honouring each other. 11 Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. 12 Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. 13 When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.