

Trusting God with the Legacy of your Faith

Sunday, May 10/20 --- Genesis 24

Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things. And Abraham said to his servant... go to my country and my kindred, and (get) a wife for my son Isaac.
- Genesis 24:1ff

Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts. - Psalm 145:4

Lay up these words of mine in your heart... teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down and when you rise.
- Deut. 11:18ff

I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you as well. - 2 Timothy 1:5 - 6

The greatest legacy one can pass on to one's children and grandchildren is a legacy of character and faith. - Billy Graham

Introduction:

One of the benefits of studying a book of the Bible like Genesis is that we get to see the changes that take place in Biblical characters like Abraham as his perspective changes. In recent weeks we have read about the events God used to shape and re-shape Abraham's life and faith to accomplish His purposes. This morning we come to a critical moment. Abraham is old. Sarah has died. But the son of promise, Isaac, is not married. Abraham is worried about how his faith and his covenant with God is going to be passed on to the next generation. It serves to remind us that we too have a responsibility to pass on a legacy of faith to our children and grand-children.

Abraham's CPP: Three Imperatives

- i. Isaac needs to have a wife for the covenant to be fulfilled (24:3)
- ii. His wife must not come from the Canaanite peoples (24:3)
- iii. He must not return to the land of Abraham's forefathers (24:6, 8)

CPP for Christian Parents: Three Prayers (no matter how old your children are)

- i. Give our children significant others worthy of life-long friendship.
- ii. Let these 'significant others' be a godly influence in their lives.
- iii. Let them not turn back to a life without God, but grow in faith and witness.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- i. Do you think Isaac appears rather small in history because he is sandwiched between two bigger personalities? Have you ever felt that way? Explain.
- ii. When you think about your biggest dreams / prayers for your children, how many of them are temporal and how many are eternal? How should we pray for our children?
- iii. What can we do now to insure a legacy of faith in our children? What is our responsibility and what is God's responsibility?