

Title: Wanted: Spiritual Men

Text: Genesis 24:61-67

Turn with me to Genesis chapter 24. The book of Genesis chapter 24. We have already studied the first part of this chapter. It is talking about Abraham sending his servant to his homeland to get a wife for his son, Isaac. And the servant fulfills ^{the} ~~his~~ tasks by bringing back to Isaac a woman by the name of Rebekah.

Now, in the last few verses of chapter 24, we learn something about the spiritual depth of this man Isaac. And since this is Father's day, I want to share with you the tremendous need of Spiritual men. And I want to use Isaac as our illustration.

Genesis chapter 24 beginning with Vs 61.. (Read Vs 61-67)

Prayer

Our Father in Heaven, we ask that in this time together you would speak to our hearts by your Holy Spirit. We thank you that the gift of eternal life is offered through Jesus Christ to every person who confesses their sin and seeks your forgiveness. And we thank you that Jesus paid the penalty for all sin. And the moment we believe in Jesus we have life eternal.

We pray for all those who are Christians, here this morning, that we might become stronger in our faith because of what we learn from your Word. And we pray for the men in this congregation. We pray that we might be men of spiritual depth and insight. Men who would pattern their lives after Jesus. For we ask this in the name of Jesus.....Amen...

+++

As everyone here knows, there is a great need in our day for the family to be strengthened. And the question is often asked: WHERE DOES THE BREAK-DOWN COME? Is it because the kids are so rebellious, or because our youth are subject to so much pressure? IS THAT THE REASON?

No! I don't think so....I have never really bought into that concept.... Young people certainly are subjected to many pressures in this day and age. But, within every society and every culture ^{where} ~~where~~ sin abounds, GRACE HAS MUCH MORE ABOUNDED.....

WHY? Because through parants God has a plan for the protection of the family and the growth of the family in the Lord. And the key to that plan is MEN!!!! The Bible teaches that a young person should be brought up in the discipline of the Lord. And the responsibility for that ^{christian} training within the family is that of the Father. And the reason we have families that are falling apart; and we have children who are rebelling is because we have Fathers who are refusing to be the spiritual leaders in the home. NOW, I DIDN'T SAY...DISCIPLINARIANS...I SAID SPIRITUAL LEADERS....Men who have spiritual depth and insight. Men who are not afraid to take a stand for Jesus Christ.

() Now, I would like you to notice something about this man Isaac. His life challenges mine. And I hope it will challenge yours, also. There are four things which stand out in the life of Isaac which testifies to the character of this man.

(1) And the first thing I would like you to notice about Isaac is that he was a man of spiritual depth.

So many christian men, today, are so shallow. You don't need to talk to them about the things of the Lord for every long before you know ^{when} ~~where~~ they are coming from.

And yet, God's plan for the family is that the man in that family be the spiritual leader...But, because many men are so shallow, woman in many cases are foked to take the leadership.

Why is it that some christian men are strong spiritually and seem to have a well that never runs dry; and others seem to be so weak? Why is it that some men are calm in the midst of troubles; and others seem to lose their faith. Why is it that some men are committed and others give token commitment: WHY?.....

Now, if you are a naew christaan, then we don't expect you to know to much. You are growing in your knowledge of the Word of God.

But, if you have known christ for some years, and you are still shallow, I urge you to look at the life of Isaac..

Here was a man of spiritual depth. And his depth was dependent upon one essential factor~~s~~ in his life. And ~~they~~^{it is} are given to us right in Vs 62. We read, "Now, Isaac had come from going to BEER-AL" HAI- ROI¹,;

And the ~~two~~^{one essential} factors ~~are~~^{is} found in that word "BEER-AL'HAI- ROI"...And the word means "HIM THAT LIVETH AND SEETH ME."

conf So, the thing that characterizes his depth is the presence of the Lord in his life. The presence of the Lord.

Dear friends, this is not just a name for name sake. This is one of those important Hebrew words that has a definite purpose. It emphasizes the PRESENCE OF THE LORD IN THE LIFE OF ISAAC. It refers to the one who lives and sees me and knows me. *The presence of the Lord*

Now, trying to be down to earth...when we talk about being in the presence of the Lord, WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

We are talking about those times when the individual believer knows that the secret to his depth is to met privately with God. It is to trust the only two essentials for spiritual growth. And to believe in them; and to believe that they are the key to the spiritual depth of my life.

Now, you know what they are

What are those two things?.....They are: The Word of God and Prayer....

Men

Now, there are no short cuts to spiritual depth. There is no way that I can give you a spiritual hypodermix needle this morning and send you out, all of a sudden, a deep spiritual person. The only way any one is deep is ~~the~~ through the constant study and application of the word of God; and abiding in prayer. *Like we said last Sunday - spending time alone with God. I don't see spent much time in prayer - B.S. - Study*

Now, Jesus admonishes us along this line. You will read that Jesus went out early in the morning to spend time alone in prayer. We find this all the time. We find that he urged his disciples to come apart for a little while and spend time alone in prayer. We read in the Sermon on the Mount that Jesus admonishes us to go into our closets and in secret pray to our heavenly Father and he will reward us openly. The Bible constantly admonishes us to get into the Word; and prayer.... WHY?.... Because the presences of God is a special ingredient in being deep in the Lord. If you want to be spiritually mature ~~there~~ there is no short cups. You must spend time in prayer and in the Word of God. *And* it indicates your dependence upon Him. When you eliminate this out of your life, you are saying to yourself and others that you can operate independently of God.... Jesus taught us in John 15:5 "that he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.".....Absolute Zero..... But, what do we do?.... I know that I am talking to christians right now....Because the number one, fundamental probelem in spiritual growth is that Christians ^{men} are ignoring the Word of God, and prayer. Now, I don't mean those little moments when we open the Bible and read it in an emergency. Or we pray to God the night before we go to bed. Or when we are in trouble. I am not talking about all that.

I am talking about a daily constant time in which we indicate our dependence on God and know that His presence is essential in my life. I am trusting Him. I learn in the Word of God that my mind must be renewed in the Bible, daily, if I am to be transformed into the image of Christ.

Let us suppose this week as you go ~~to~~ to work, if that is your ~~responsibility~~ responsibility, you go to work and you met somebody who crosses you and

rubs you the wrong way. Now, ^{I have discovered} ~~you will find~~ that Christians ^{men} are divided into two camps. There will be those who over react and will attempt to "get back" or "be hurt".....Which are really two sides of the same coin..and not really know how to cop with the critismes of their fellow employees.

You will find another group of Christians who, because they are strong and deep in the Word of God, can remain calm and accept the criticism as being from God.] ..WHY IS THAT?.....Because in the case of one, there ~~is~~ mind has been filled with the Word of God. ^{man} ...HOW DO WE KNOW HOW TO REACT IF, THE WORD OF GOD IS NOT IN OUR MIND?.....

Vs 63

There is no way the Spirit can bring it to our attention unless it is in our mind. And Isaac teaches me a tremendous truth as every evening he went out into the fields. ^{To pray} He know the importance of the presence of the Lord in His life. And ~~I~~ just challenge every believer here. ^{are} ~~OUR~~ WE CONSISTENTLY DAILY, METTING WITH GOD IN PRAYER AND STUDING THE WORD.

out

Now, don't go broad ~~cast~~ ^{are} ~~our~~ ...Our Lord Jesus taught ~~if~~ that if we are fasting or praying in private that when we appear before men, wash your face, comb your hair, and don't appear unto men in piety.... In other words, the real battle, people, is in the private closet of our life. And old time evangelist use to put it this way: "What you are is, ^{is} what you ~~are~~ ^{is} in the dark." .. The real battle is private. And how much time do we spend with God in the secret place...THAT IS THE KEY....And the Bible says in Psalms 16:11 "that in thy presence is fulness of...joy...."

me

The joyful, happy christian, the steady christian, the balanced christian, the christian of depth, is the one who is in the presance of God. And this word "La-Hai-roi" "the God who is constantly living and is seeing me." And he was going to met ~~with~~ with him every single day.

out

I read in Acts 4:13 of Peter and John before the Sanhedrian, the Baible says that they saw their boldness...That doesn't mean "freedon/of/ "loudness"....You know, like a fog horn...It means "freedom of speach"... Now notice this carefully. When Peter and John where standing before the religious assemble of Israel they noticed that they had freedom of speach.

They talked well...About what?....About spiritual things....They seemed to have a knowledge about the Word of God that they shouldn't have. WHY?..

Because the passage says they were uneducated ~~and~~ untrained men....That is they did not whole the right degree from the right college of their day.

They had no way of knowing all these things... ~~and~~ *And yet they knew the Word of G.*

Peter & John ~~And they saw this freedom of speech.~~ And they drew one conclusion.

~~THEY HAD BEEN WITH JESUS~~....Where did you get all that freedom of speech?

Where did you get all that spiritual depth? ~~THEY HAD BEEN WITH JESUS.~~

And the same thing is going to be true in our lives, if we are to be men ~~(and women)~~ of depth. *spend time with Jesus*

(2D) There is a second thing related to this presence of God. I notice in Geness chapter 24:62 that it is called "a well". ~~And as I said before, Isaac~~

~~is a man of the "well."~~ The word here does not simple mean "cistern". But it is talking about running water....RUNING WATER...And it occures to me that

without water, a plant is going to die even in the midst of abundance of food. ~~WHY?~~.....Because water gives power to that plant to take up the

food. My friend, it is no different in the Christian life....The ~~water~~ water within us, the living water, is..called the "ministry of the Holy

Spirit....The power of the Spirit of God is essential to a dæep life. You can not subsititute for it.....In John 7 we ~~learn~~ learn that if any person comes

to Jesus to drink, he will never thirst again. And then he said "out from him will come streams of living water." And John said, "this he spoke of the

Holy Spirit."

The Holy Spirit will take the Word of God and bear fruit. In Psalms chapter 1 it says:

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor stand in the path of sinners,

Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

But his delight is in the law of the Lord,

And in His law he meditates day and night.

And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,
Which yields its fruit in its season,
And its leaf does not wither;
And in whatever he does, he prospers.

What a testimony to a deep, mature, spiritual life. Isaac was a man of depth.

And I want to say this: that much of the problems in our homes, in our families, is because the men who are supposedly the leaders, the husbands and the fathers, are not ~~men~~ men of spiritual depth....And the wives know it and they are ~~broken~~ broken hearted. And the kids know it and they go their own way. And the church knows it and thus it is weak and ineffective. Because the leaders in the home are not men of spiritual depth. And there never was a greater need among christians today than men of spiritual depth who are leading their homes and their families. *and leading their churches.*

(2C) The second thing I see about the life of Isaac is that he was a man of dedication. According to Genesis 24 and verse 63, it says that Isaac ~~went~~ went out to meditate in the field toward evening." "And he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, camels were coming."

The thing that really impressed me ...and in the Hebrew it indicated that every single day he is doing this...he goes out in the evening to mediate in the field. I like the morning. You may like the afternoon. Isaac went out in the evening to pray....Listen, you can't substitute for this. Here was a man that was so dedicated that he knew he needed to meet God every single day. And this adds another dimension that he was deep and spiritual. He was a man who was mature, and he understood the will of God in his life especially in the selection of Rebekah because he was out there in the field praying and mediating with the Lord. *Seeking his will for this situation in his life.*

(3C) The third thing I notice about his life is in vs 67. And that is that he was a man of deep devotion. And it is no wonder when you learn about his spiritual maturity because vs 67 says, "that he brought Rebekah into his mother's tent, and she became his wife; and he loved her .".....You know there are a lot of marriages in the Bible and this one stands out because

it makes a comment about Isaac's wonderful love for Rebekah. I am sure other men ^{in the Bible} loved their wife. But it just doesn't say ¹, All men are instructed to love their wives. ~~Why~~ Why this comment about Isaac?....Because in God's economy, he put it in His word to show us that this was a man who had special devotion, special love. Love that arose out of what?....Spiritual depth... He was a man of devotion. ~~When you want to love your wife that's what love is~~ ~~Then get Christ first in your life~~

(4C) The fourth thing I see about Isaac is found over in chapter 25. He was a man of determination. He would not give up. A lot of ~~men~~ ^{men} fade out. They give up, so easily. Over in Galatians it tells us not to be weary in well doing for in due season we ~~shall~~ shall reap if we faint not...

Now a lot of ~~us~~ ^{men} get ~~discouraged~~ ^{give up}. We ware out and we ~~give up~~. Isaac did not. And I would like to show you why.... ^{Beemant} ^{area of prayer}

In Vs 20 of chapter 25 it says that Isaac was 40 years old when he took Rebekah as his wife....Vs 21: "and Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord answered him and Rebekah his wife conceived."

^{Isaac Jacob} Now, look at Vs 26, the last phrase says that when the children were born Isaac was 60 years old. Now, notice carefully. At age 40, Isaac is praying to the Lord concerning the fact that his wife was barren. He is praying that the Lord will give them a child. He ^{knew} knows that the line of the Messiah must continue through him and he is praying for a child. And he prays for 20 years. And finally Rebekah has a ^{twins} baby. That really stands out in my mind. 20 years....

A person tells me, I have been praying for three weeks and the Lord hasn't answered. I just know he wouldn't...20 years he prayed.....You know, talk about patience. Hebrew chapter 10 tells us that we have need of patience that after we have done the will of God we might receive the promise. James tells us that the testing of our faith worketh patience. But let patience have her mature works. So that you may be mature and wanting nothing

^{me} How would you like to be in the place of saying, "I don't want anything." Paul wrote I am content. I don't need anything."

Here was a man who prayed for 20 years. And God answered his prayer, and they had twins....."Wait on the Lord and he will strengthen your heart. Be of good courage." Wait on the Lord. Why? Because he is going to answer.

And you know, once again, all Christians are divided into two camps. Those who expect God and demand God to perform in their life immediately. And those who wait on the Lord. Knowing patience and knowing that all things are part of His plan...

WHY? Because that kind of patience arises out off spiritual depth. If you are not spiritually strong, then you are always asking and demanding and wanting to the point that you are not waiting and trusting and putting your confidence in God. In His time....in His way....God will answer prayer.

A Isaac was a man of spiritual depth(and that depth came from prayer and Bible study) He was a man of devotion(daily seeking God's direction for his life).....He was a man of dedication(he loved Rebekah as Christ loved the church)....and he was a man of determination(he wouldn't give up. He had saying power)....

You know, the Church needs spiritual men....

Our wives need spiritual husbands.....

Our children need spiritual Dads...A spiritual Dad is a roll molet. Men who seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness....not the man of the world who seeks selfless goals and desires.....

WHAT KIND OF MAN ARE YOU THIS MORROWING?

PRAYER