

God is Up to Something Great

Genesis 26:1 – 6 (KJV);12-13

26 And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar. ² And the Lord appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: ³ Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father; ⁴ And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; ⁵ Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws. ⁶ And Isaac dwelt in Gerar: ¹² Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the Lord blessed him. ¹³ And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great:

Giving honor to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Jesus the Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Giving honor to the sons, daughters, and children of God. Good morning my brothers and sisters in Christ. As we look at today's text, Genesis 26:1-6 and verses 12-13, our didactic sermon topic is "God is Up to Something Great."

As we read this unit of scripture, we understand that there is a severe famine in the land. The famine had occurred before in Abraham's time, so Isaac moved to the city of Gerar, where Abimelech, king of the Philistines, lived. The Lord appeared unto him, and said, "Don't go to Egypt." (My brothers and sisters, God would do that later with Joseph). Do as I say and stay here in this land. (Stay where I told you...) If you do, I will be with you and bless you, and I will give all this land to you and to your descendants, just as I promised Abraham your father. (I want you to know this morning that this didn't even start with you). Good God Almighty. God is still blessing. O' Yes He is. God is still answering your grandmother's and grandfather's prayers.) God says, "And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws. And Isaac dwelt in Gerar: (He stayed right where God put him). Now Isaac has this encounter in Jarar. He doesn't want Abimelech to know that Rebecca is his wife.)

I want you to notice as we preface this text, that both Abraham and Isaac are on a

journey. They are nomadic and they are going on a journey. There are years that go by and walking in the blessing of God, it is a journey. It doesn't just happen automatically. The people of God were nomadic people who lived in tents and at God's beck and call, would move from place to place. Can I get a witness.

Beloved, from Genesis to Revelations, God is ON the Move. Oftentimes we build monuments to a God who is a Movement. (He is Nomadic). God is On the Move. God has always resisted living in houses. But I'm so thankful that God is still with us. I feel my help coming on and I believe there is a witness that can say, "For God I live and for God I die, somebody ought to testify." God is Up to Something Great. (He's on the move.) The reality is that we build monuments, and we build houses, and we live in monuments and we live in houses, but we serve a God who is nomadic. **Our God is on the move.** That's why it's important to understand that as we listen to God's voice that we move when He says move and we stay when he says to stay because we serve a moving God. There is a song says "When I move you move... JUST LIKE That!!! Hallelujah, God.

Our natural proclivity is to pray against the famine. Oftentimes, what causes the journey is famine. We tend to pray against the famine, but oftentimes God will allow the famine to force you to pack your tent up and get moving. God thinks generationally, while we are thinking situationally.

In this particular situation, Isaac was caught in a lie.

In verse 7, the men of the place asked him of his wife; and he said, She is my sister: for he feared to say, She is my wife; lest, said he, the men of the place should kill me for Rebekah; because she was fair to look upon. (*Halle Berry, Janet Jackson, 1st Lady Haywood, The Women of Bethel*) Rebekah was fine... ⁸ And it came to pass, when he had been there a long time, that Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out at a window, and saw, and, behold, Isaac was sporting with Rebekah his wife. (*Abimelech saw Isaac sporting with his wife Rebekah*). After Abimelech saw this he called Isaac, and said, Behold, of a surety she is thy wife; and how saidst thou, She is my sister? And Isaac said unto him, Because I said, Lest I die for her. And Abimelech said, What is this thou hast done unto us? One of the people might likely have lien with thy wife, and thou shouldest have brought guiltiness upon us. And Abimelech charged all his people, saying, He that toucheth this man or his wife shall surely be put to death. Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the Lord blessed him.

God is doing Something Great.

My brothers and sisters, always remember...where God puts you; He has already provided provisions for you there. (Look, we had a cat one time that came by the

house and the cat stayed). I found out that my children had fed the cat, washed the cat, held the cat... The provisions for the cat were right there. Now once they loved on that cat, you could open the door and the cat would go out, and when I would come home, the cat would come home. * God is Up to Something Great. My family was there and you know what ... The cat's family was there. Why, because provisions were there. The blessings were there.

Notice in Verse 12 said he sowed seed there. (Tithe & Offering)

God is Up to Something Great. Oftentimes we pray against the famine (peace, life, opportunity). You see a famine will cause you to move into the next dimension of what God is going to do in your life.

In the midst of a pandemic, in the midst of gun violence, and in the midst of chaos. 1 will put a thousand to flight and two will put 10,000 to flight. Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that **all things work together for good** to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." God is Up to Something Great. I'm coming on in now, I see a landing strip. Notice that after he sowed seed (verse 12), he reaped a harvest. Can anybody witness that you can't beat God giving, no matter how hard you try? In verse 13 thru 16 it says, "And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great: For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: **(God blessed Isaac so, because Isaac sowed seed in that land)**, and the Philistines envied him. ¹⁵ For all the wells which his father's servants had digged in the days of Abraham his father, the Philistines had stopped them, and filled them with earth. ¹⁶ And Abimelech said unto Isaac, **Go from us; for thou art much mightier than we.**

In closing,

God is doing Something Great. Some of us are the 1st to graduate. Some have come out of places that you can't image. You may be able to testify I ain't what I ought to be, but "Thank God" I'm not what I used to be. Hasn't God brought you from a mighty long way. Did He wake you up this morning? Did He start you on your way? Has He been your Shield and Buckler? Has He kept food on your table? Hasn't He keep clothes on your backs? Has He been your doctor in the sick room? Has He blessed you in your going out and in your coming in? Beloved, God is on the move. He's still in the Blessing Business. He's still more for you than the whole world against you. Someone asked a question, **Why do we sing?** When we lift our hands to Jesus, what do we really mean? Someone may be wondering, when we sing our song. At times we may be crying, and nothing's even wrong. ... I sing because I'm happy (I sing), **I sing because I'm free (His eye's on)**

His eye's on the sparrow (that's the reason) That's the reason why I sing.

God is... God is... God is Up to Something Great. Won't you try Him today?

Romans 10:8-10 says, "For salvation that comes from trusting Christ—which is what we preach—is already within easy reach of each of us; in fact, it is as near as our own hearts and mouths. For if you tell others with your own mouth that Jesus Christ is your Lord and believe in your own heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Hallelujah, God is Up to Something Great. Amen.