

## e-concepts

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### Lessons from the Life of Isaac

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*Then he (Isaac) went up from there to Beersheba. The Lord appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham; Do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you, and multiply your descendants, For the sake of My servant Abraham." So he built an altar there and called upon the name of the Lord, and pitched his tent there; and there Isaac's servants dug a well (Genesis 26:23-25).*

Be faithful to your calling, and your calling is determined by:

(1) your gifts, (2) your desires, and (3) your life situation (Genesis 22—28: various passages).

Isaac didn't really do very much. But then one could argue he wasn't asked to do very much. His main function was to be the link between Abraham and Jacob. And we have to recognize he was that, not just genealogically but also spiritually.

#### On the positive side:

- He trusted his godly father Abraham (22:7-9; 24:66-67).
- He left home, became a man, and established his own household (24:62).
- He was a man of meditation (24:63).
- He was faithful to his wife—he was not an adulterer.
- He was faithful to God—he was not an idolater.
- He believed in the sovereignty of God (28:3 “El Shaddai”).
- He believed in the power of prayer (25:21, he prayed for his wife, the only Genesis patriarch recorded doing that).
- He responded to the wisdom of his wife (27:46—28:5).
- He was not lazy about work (26: 12-14).
- He was a man of peace (26:16-22).
- He was a man of worship (26:25).
- He believed the Word of God (26:2, 6, 24-25).

#### On the other hand:

- He tended to put his own interest over God's in that he loved the son God hated (25:28; 27:8-10; Malachi 2:1-3).
- He followed his father's sins and weaknesses in lying about his wife (26:1-11).
- He was insensitive to the details of the Word of God (compare 25:23 with 27:4).
- He did not disciple his sons very well or very much (see 28:8-9).

#### Application

- The point is, be faithful to God, using well the position God has given you in life.
- Utilize your gifts, talents, abilities, desires, and your place in society—your family roles, job, race, nationality, etc., for the glory of God in your own age (see Genesis 6:9 and Acts 13:36).

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