

Some Spiritual Footprints of Isaac

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Genesis 17:1-22

Introduction: On Wednesday nights, we are looking in the Bible at different people who left spiritual footprints for us to follow. Outside the Bible there are not as many people with spiritual footprints to follow as there used to be.

Illustration: When I was growing up and when I was a young man, there were more people in public life that we looked up to then than there are today.

1. In politics: Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter are good footprints to follow.
2. In sports: Coach Tom Landry, Kurt Warner, Reggie White, Joe Gibbs, Tony Dungy, Deion Sanders and Tim Tebow are good examples to follow.
3. In entertainment: Patricia Heaton, Chuck Norris, and Kathie Lee Gifford are good footprints to follow.

None of these were or are perfect. The People in the Bible were not perfect either, but many left good spiritual footprints to follow. Isaac is certainly on this list.

Things about Isaac:

1. Isaac is mentioned in the Bible before he was born (Genesis 17:1-22).
2. We know very little about his early life except that he was circumcised at eight days of age (Genesis 21:4).
3. Isaac lived most of his life in the shadow of his father Abraham and his son Jacob.
4. Isaac is the second of the patriarchs of Israel.
5. Isaac is the only son of Abraham and Sarah.
6. Isaac is the father of Esau and Jacob.
7. Isaac lived to be 180 years old (Genesis 35:28-29).
8. There is a lot of material in Genesis about Isaac (Genesis 17 through 35).
9. Compare to Abraham (Genesis chapters 12 through chapter 25).

In the story of Isaac, we learn a lot of things, but there is one main lesson.

The Main Lesson: God provides.

God Provides...

1. God provides a sacrifice for our sins (Genesis chapter 22).

- In Genesis 22, Abraham's willingness to offer his only son as a sacrifice is certainly the "big picture."
- Isaac was willing to be the sacrifice on Mount Moriah (22:9).
- This would mean killing as son over 20 years old.
- But God provided a "ram in the thicket" for the sacrifice (Genesis 22:13).
- Isaac is an Old Testament type of Christ.

Illustration: On Mount Moriah, Isaac left a spiritual footprint that God would provide a sacrifice for our sins on Mount Calvary.

Application: Like Isaac, you and I are not the sacrifice.

- The church is not the sacrifice.
- Good works is not the sacrifice.
- Baptism is not the sacrifice.

Illustration: For Isaac it was a ram in the thicket. For you and for me it was a Lamb on Mount Calvary and that Lamb was Jesus.

T.S. Another spiritual footprint of Isaac is that God provides for every need we will ever have (Genesis chapter 24).

2. God provides for every need we will ever have (Genesis chapter 24).

- In Genesis 24, we see God meeting the needs of Abraham, his oldest servant (Eliezer—15:1-2), Isaac, and Rebekah.

Illustration: Abraham's need was that his son has a wife. God met that need. His oldest servant's need was to have his prayer answered and bring Isaac a wife. God met that need. Rebekah's need was to live in God's plan and be the wife of Isaac. God met that need. Isaac had a need and God met that need.

1. Isaac needed the right wife and God met that need.
2. Isaac needed comfort over the death of his mother (Sarah) and God met that need (24:67).

Application: God provides for every need we will ever have.

- In His time. Remember that God's arithmetic is different.
- In His way.

Illustration: I see this over and over in our church, in people's lives, in my family, and in my own life.

T.S Another spiritual footprint of Isaac is that God provides opportunities in disguise (Genesis chapter 26).

3. God provides opportunities in disguise (Genesis chapter 26).

- Staying in the land and living among the Philistines did not look like an opportunity, but it was an opportunity in disguise.
 1. It was an opportunity in disguise to obey God (26:1-6a). Isaac obeyed and God blessed (26:12-14).
 2. It was an opportunity in disguise not to retaliate and let God work things out (26:15-22).
 3. It was an opportunity in disguise to show that God was with him (26:28).

Conclusion: Follow Isaac's spiritual footprints whatever you face.

1. Obey what God has told you.
2. Rather than retaliate let God work things out.
3. Handle things so people will see that God is with you.