

Philippians 4:11

I have learned in whatever situation I am to be *content*. ... ¹³ I can do all things **through him** who strengthens me.

IV. Turn to Jesus Who Never Changes

Genesis 26:23-25

²³ From there he went up to Beersheba. ²⁴ And the Lord appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of Abraham your father. ***Fear not, for I am with you*** and will bless you and multiply your offspring for my servant Abraham's sake." ²⁵ So he built an **altar** there and *called upon the name of the Lord* and pitched his tent there.

Isaiah 43:1-8, 11

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³ For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴ Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life.

⁵ Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. ⁶ I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, ⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

⁸ Bring out the people who are blind, yet have eyes, who are deaf, yet have ears! ...

¹¹ I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no savior.

Genesis 26:1-33

Jesus Christ is the Same Yesterday and Today and Forever

June 13, 2010

Sermon Outline

Notes

I. Introduction

A. Why the Obvious Parallels with Abraham?

1. Famine, protection provision
2. God visits, instructs and makes promises
3. Contention/Treaty with Abimelech

Psalm 102:25-27

²⁵ Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

²⁶ They will perish, but **you will remain**; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, ²⁷ but **you are the same**, and your years have no end.

²⁸ The children of **your servants** shall dwell secure; their offspring shall be established before you.

B. The Lord Remains Faithful to Us!

Galatians 3:29

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Key Idea

The LORD/Jesus has revealed himself as our one true rock to stand on through the trials of this life.

II. The Trial of Famine

Genesis 26:1

Now there was a **famine** in the land...

A. How will I Live?

MAIADUA, Nigeria — Cradling her 18-month-old daughter in one arm and a broom in the other, Harira Ado picks her way through a market in northern Nigeria looking for spilled grains to feed her family.

It's a job that involves sweeping up behind the porters, squatting low to collect the tiny grains of maize that are inevitably dropped as they pile the sacks two meters high.

Ado, who's 43 but looks frailer, isn't the only one scavenging for spilled grains at this popular international market...

The mother of seven is among some 200 women who migrated from neighbouring Niger in recent weeks where erratic rains led to a crop failure that has now brought about a severe food crisis. (AFP News)

B. God Provides for Isaac

Genesis 26:12-13

¹² And Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a **hundredfold** (26:1 - Famine). The Lord blessed him, ¹³ and the man became rich, and gained more and more until he became very wealthy.

C. Will God Provide for Our Needs?

Mark 10:29-30

²⁹ Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, ³⁰ who will not receive a **hundredfold** now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, **with persecutions**, and in the age to come eternal life.

Matthew 6:31-34

³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and *your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.* ³³ But **seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness**, and all these things will be added to you.

³⁴ "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

III. The Trial Within – The Fear of Man

- A. Fear of Harm
- B. Living a Lie

Note: Gen. 26:8 saw Isaac laughing with Rebekah. In this context the Hebrew verb "to laugh" implies laughing as they caress affectionately. The narrator deliberately chooses this verb to create a play on the name "Isaac," which means "he laughs." Abimelech sees Isaac "being himself" with Rebekah and draws the obvious conclusion that they are married. (ESV Study Bible)

C. Who Controls Our Actions?

IV. The Trial of Persecution

A. Persecutions Come to Believers Today

- May 4, an underground church leader in Somaliawas killed
- Christians in Iraq have been warned by Muslim extremists to leave the country immediately or risk violent death
- April 24, seven people were killed by Muslim youths in Nigeria

On May 19, Muslim youths destroyed two church buildings and a pastor's house in Northern **Nigeria** ...

"They also attacked the Christians in the village with sticks, clubs, knives and bow and arrows, but the Christians, ... mostly natives ... escaped with their lives, leaving few injured" ...

Believers in Nigeria think the Muslims attacked because locals are converting to Christianity...

B. Godliness with Contentment is Great Gain

2 Corinthians 12:9b-10

Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that **the power of Christ** may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, ***I am content*** with *weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities.* For when I am weak, then I am strong.

1 Timothy 6:6-8

⁶ Now there is great gain in godliness **with contentment,** ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be **content.**

Hebrews 13:5

Keep your life free from love of money, and be **content** with what you have, for he has said, "**I will never leave you nor forsake you.**"