

Sun Morning

"Live to Serve"

A LEGACY THAT LASTS

LARRY CHAPPELL | JUNE 15, 2025

Text: Genesis 18:1-22 Abraham

"And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; 2 And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground, 3 And said, My Lord, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant: 4 Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree: 5 And I will fetch a morsel of bread, and comfort ye your hearts; after that ye shall pass on: for therefore are ye come to your servant. And they said, So do, as thou hast said. 6 And Abraham hastened into the tent unto Sarah, and said, Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes upon the hearth. 7 And Abraham ran unto the herd, and fetcht a calftender and good, and gave it unto a young man; and he hasted to dress it. 8 And he took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree, and they did eat. 9 And they said unto him, Where is Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent. 10 And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard it in the tent door, which was behind him. 11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. 12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also? 13 And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old? 14 Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son. 15 Then Sarah denied, saying, I laughed not; for she was afraid. And he said, Nay; but thou didst laugh. 16 And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way. 17 And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; 18 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? 19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him. 20 And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; 21 I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know. 22 And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD." (Genesis 18:1-22)

sarah
in
men-
pause

Promise
of a
son

Abra-
ham
will
command
his
household

- Three men?

* 2 angels

* Jesus appears before His birth - "theophany"

INTRODUCTION

- a. God knew Abraham's heart
- b. God renamed Abram to Abraham (Gen 17:5)
 - Abram means "exalted father"
 - Abraham means "father of many nations"
- c. God promised Abram, "I will make of you a great nation..." (Gen 12:1-4)
 - but Abram was 75 years old
 - And Abram had no children

1. MAKE HIS Presence

A PRIORITY (v. 1-8)

A. The appearance of the LORD

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." (Hebrews 13:2)

Jesus often says God is His Father (Jn 5:18)

"No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him." (John 1:18)

"And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live." (Exodus 33:20) God to Moses

"No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us." (1 John 4:12)

"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?" (1 Kings 8:27)

B. The friendship of Abraham

- a) active obedience
- b) continuous obedience
- c) total obedience

"Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?" (2 Chronicles 20:7)

"And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God." (James 2:23)

"But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend." (Isaiah 41:8)

C. The promise of a Son

"And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice." (Genesis 22:18)

"The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham." (Matthew 1:1)

- Hebrew nation
- tribe of Judah
- house of David

- Impossible with men?
- All things possible with God
- * Lk 1:37, 18:27, Gen 18:14, Jer 32:17, 27

2. CHOOSE Faith OVER FEELING (v. 9-15)

- A. Unbelief Fixates on
the Circumstances

Quote: "Unbelief is not a misfortune to be pitied; it is a sin to be deplored."—John Stott

"But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible."

(Matthew 19:26) Mt 19:26, Mk 9:23, 10:27, 14:36

"Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." (Isaiah 59:1-2)

- B. Faith Focuses on God's
Ability and Rests in His Sovereignty

Quote: "God delights in impossibilities, for they provide the stage upon which He reveals His power."—A.W. Pink

"For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him." (Genesis 21:2)

"And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me. 7 And she said, Who would have said unto Abraham, that Sarah should have given children suck? for I have born him a son in his old age." (Genesis 21:6-7)

"Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised." (Hebrews 11:11)

Quote: "Even those who start in doubt can end in faith."

3. TAKE THE Lead (v. 16-19)

- A. Recognize Your calling (as a father)

"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4)

- B. Take Charge of Your household

"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." (Joshua 24:15)

"Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding." (Proverbs 4:1)

C. Model integrity with Humility with truth

D. Guard the way (to live)

a) fear God
b) walk in God's way
c) love God
d) serve God

"And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul," (Deuteronomy 10:12)

"And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel." (Judges 2:10)

Quote: "The greatest threat to godly legacy is spiritual drift."

E. Live it Out

"Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face." (Psalm 89:14)

Quote: "Judgment' is discerning what's right. 'Justice' is doing right."

a) justice
b) mercy
c) walk humbly

"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah 6:8)

4. REFLECT GOD'S Heart (v. 20-33)

A. The weight of Sin

Quote: "Nothing is as offensive to the unregenerate mind as the coming judgment of sin."—James Montgomery Boice

murder

"And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground." (Genesis 4:10) God with Cain

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

B. The wrath of God (the Judge)

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;" (Romans 1:18)

C. The wonder of Grace (God's free offer)

"Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." (Romans 5:9)

- God's grace
- God's mercy

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- God's grace multiplied much more exponentially
 - where sin multiplied

*"Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: 21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."
(Romans 5:20-21)*

Quote: "Christ not only died for us long ago—He prays for us right now. The same Savior who bled for you pleads for you."
—Robert Murray M'Cheyne

CONCLUSION
