4-3-22 MESSAGE From
OUR FATHER ABRAHAM AN EXAMPLE OF FAITH
SUNDAY SCHOOL

Intro ***Consider HOW MANY PEOPLE TODAY CLAIM ABRAHAM AS THEIR FATHER?***

HE IS INDEED THE FATHER OF US ALL ***Example of faith.***

This Easter our musical is entitled the Story of Abraham.

The last few weeks I have been busy trying to work on the multimedia presentation of the musical. So I have been meditating a lot about Abraham.

Abraham was beloved of God.

When we think of Abraham we think of the word Father. The term father and Abraham appear over 30 times in the Bible.

Paul called Abraham our father.

> Romans 4:1 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?
>
> Romans 4:16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of **the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,**

Abraham is a great example of faith. He is called the father of all who have faith.

God said, that Abraham would be the father of many nations.

> Genesis 17:4 As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.

Think about this, how many people claim Abraham as their father?

Arabs.
Jews.
Christians.
Moslems.
Bahai.

Probably over 1/2 of the world's religions and population claim Abraham as their father in one way or another.

An Abrahamic religion is a monotheistic religion that includes Abraham. Abrahamic religions account for more than half of the world's total population. Today, there are around 3.8 billion followers of various Abrahamic religions.

CONSIDER:

I. ABRAHAM'S GREAT FAITH IN FOLLOWING GOD.

Genesis 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:
Genesis 12:2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:
Genesis 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.
Genesis 12:4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.
Genesis 12:5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.
Genesis 12:6 And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land.
Genesis 12:7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.
Genesis 12:8 And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Beth-el, and pitched his tent, having Beth-el on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.
Genesis 12:9 And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.

I. CONSIDER THE GREAT FAITH OF ABRAHAM TO MOVE OUT OF THE GREAT CITY OF HARAN, CITY OF UR OF THE CHALDEES, HIS GREAT FAITH:

Ur is known in the Bible as Ur of the Chaldees. This biblical name, Ur of the Chaldees, refers to the Chaldeans, who settled the area about 900 B.C. It is known as the ancient city of the Sumerian civilization and the home of Abraham, father of the Hebrews. Its ruins are between the modern city of Baghdad, Iraq, and the head of the Persian Gulf. The site is now known as Tall al Muqayyar, Iraq. The site of ancient Ur is located 140 miles south of Babylon. It was the capital of a small wealthy empire during the third millennium B.C. Most of the great ziggurat of Ur is still standing.

Ur was the capital city of the World. It would be like Leaving New York City to dwell in the deserts.

Many years ago 2 young teenagers knocked on our door. They were from New York City. They were cold and hungry.

They decided to buy a tent and travel outside of New York. They decided to travel south. The tent was a child's tent. Not weatherproof. Not even fit for camping.

They got as far as Lenox, and started to walk up 106 and saw our church and came over for help. They were hungry, cold and pretty much lost.

We shared the gospel with them and bought them bus tickets back to New York.

Imagine the humble life of Abraham. He lived in tents, owned no property, lived a nomadic life.

HOW DID ABRAHAM MANIFEST GREAT FAITH IN OBEYING GOD AND LEAVING THE CITY OF UR?

1. ABRAHAM WAS 75 Years old when he stepped out to do this.

Genesis 12:4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

Most people, as they get older, are not ambitious.

2. ABRAHAM PITCHED A TENT ALL THE YEARS OF HIS SOJOURNING.

Genesis 12:8 And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Beth-el, and pitched his tent, having Beth-el on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.

To live in a tent is to give up all the luxuries we enjoy in our homes.

Running water. To get running water in a tent you need lots of kids to run for it.
Heat. Everything needs to be ready to pack up and go.

3. ABRAHAM WAS NOT A POOR MAN WHEN HE STEPPED OUT IN FAITH.

Genesis 12:5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

He had servants, cattle, etc. Sarai had handmaid. They had some slaves.

4. ABRAHAM DID NOT KNOW WHERE HE WAS GOING OR WHAT WOULD BECOME OF HIM.

Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.
Hebrews 11:9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:
Hebrews 11:10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Imagine the unknowns.

How many people would just step out in faith and do what God says to do without knowing the details or having a plan?

God does not always tell us everything.

God told man not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Did not tell them why or did not give all the details. They were to obey and trust Him. They didn't and this introduced sin. Sin came because of doubt.

5. ABRAHAM DID NOT HESITATE TO OBEY GOD.

Imagine if God asked you or me to do something similar. Think of the difficulty of doing it.

Wasn't like Lot and his wife who reluctantly left.

A. Imagine the difficulties of tent living.
No permanent roof. Rain. Elements.

B. Imagine the difficulties of nomadic life.
No water. No fixed well to fetch water from.
No marketplace to buy food.
No walls to protect you.

C. Think of his great age, 75 years old.

D. Try to imagine what it would be like to live out of a tent.

II. CONSIDER THE FACT THAT GOD'S GREAT SERVANTS START FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS.

Abraham had no children.

1. ***SOMETIMES WE GET ANXIOUS AND FEEL LIKE WE ARE NOT GETTING ANYWHERE, ESPECIALLY AS WE SEE THE WORLD AROUND US PROSPERING AND WE ARE JUST TRYING TO OBEY GOD.***

2. ***ABRAHAM DECIDED TO TRY THE WORLDS METHODS OF GETTING THE BLESSING. THIS IS A GREAT MISTAKE GOD'S PEOPLE STILL MAKE.***

Genesis 16:1 Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar.
Genesis 16:2 And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And **Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.**
Genesis 16:3 And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.
Genesis 16:4 And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.
Genesis 16:5 And Sarai said unto Abram, My wrong be upon thee: I have given my maid into thy bosom; and when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes: the LORD judge between me and thee.
Genesis 16:6 But Abram said unto Sarai, Behold, thy maid is in thy hand; do to her as it pleaseth thee. And when Sarai dealt hardly with her, she fled from her face.

Everyone wants to experience great blessing from the Lord.

That means numerical growth. Even those of us that live by faith at times do things in our doubt.

So it is with the church. We all want to see great numbers of people added to His church. But we don't need to help God out in this matter.

WHAT PARALLELS CAN WE SEE IN THE CONTEMPORARY CHURCH?

3. ***DO WE NOT LOOK TO GO ABOUT SEEKING GOD'S BLESSINGS? OFTEN THAT IS SEEKING GROWTH USING WORLDLY METHODS. MARKETING TECHNIQUES, ENTERTAINMENT.***

4. ***WHEN DID ABRAHAM EXPERIENCE THE BACKFIRING OF THIS DECISION? Many times decisions we make take many years to show whether they were indeed God's blessing or not. At first there seemed to be positive results. Ishmael was born.***

Genesis 21:5 And Abraham was an hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him. (Abraham was 85 when Ishmael was born)
Genesis 21:6 And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me.

Genesis 21:7 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 21:8 And the child grew, and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast the same day that Isaac was weaned.
Genesis 21:9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking.
Genesis 21:10 Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac.
Genesis 21:11 And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son.
Genesis 21:12 And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called.
Genesis 21:13 And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a nation, because he is thy seed.
Genesis 21:14 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took bread, and a bottle of water, and gave it unto Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away: and she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.
Genesis 21:15 And the water was spent in the bottle, and she cast the child under one of the shrubs.
Genesis 21:16 And she went, and sat her down over against him a good way off, as it were a bowshot: for she said, Let me not see the death of the child. And she sat over against him, and lift up her voice, and wept.
Genesis 21:17 And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, What aileth thee, Hagar? fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is.
Genesis 21:18 Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand; for I will make him a great nation.
Genesis 21:19 And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink.
Genesis 21:20 And God was with the lad; and he grew, and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer.
Genesis 21:21 And he dwelt in the wilderness of Paran: and his mother took him a wife out of the land of Egypt.

Ishmael would have been about 17 years old at the time.

Note: This is still going on today. The world looks at the Palestinians as being mistreated of the Jews.

III. ABRAHAM'S HARDEST DECISION OF FAITH WAS TO DEAL WITH HIS ERROR CONCERNING ISHMAEL.

Sometimes doing the will of the Lord is not an easy thing.

SARAH ASKED ABRAHAM TO CAST OUT THE BONDWOMAN AND ISHMAEL.

Genesis 21:9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking.
Genesis 21:10 Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac.
Genesis 21:11 And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son.
Genesis 21:12 And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called.

One of the hardest things to do by faith is to believe God, that separating from certain people is what produces godliness.

1. ***Note Abraham was grieved to do this thing.***
   Abraham loved his son Ishmael, he was his son.

2. ***God had to assure him that it was a right decision.***

3. ***Sometimes we are called upon to make tough decisions like this.***

When we go about trying to get the blessings of God in the arm of the flesh, down the road it seems we take two steps forward and 3 steps back.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF ABRAHAM HAD NEVER HAD ISHMAEL.

IV. WHAT ARE THE ISHMAEL BLESSINGS THAT OFTEN COME INTO OUR LIVES?

1. ***Often I have found in trying too hard to get God's blessings in the arm of the flesh we bring people into our lives who cause more hurt than help.***

Jesus knew what was in man.

John 2:23 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did.
John 2:24 But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men,
John 2:25 And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.

2. ***Sometimes money gotten produces more sorrow than good.***

Proverbs 10:22 The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.
Proverbs 13:11 Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.

3. ***Sometimes you can name it:***

ABRAHAMS GREATEST TEST OF FAITH.

OFFERING HIS ISAAC
LESSONS FROM MOUNT MORIAH

Introduction: We all long to receive the blessing of God. There is something in our lives that represent our greatest desire and fulfillment.

For Abraham that was his Isaac. God said, Leave UR Chaldees and proceed to a place that I will call you and I will make you a great blessing.

Genesis 22:1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.
Genesis 22:2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.
Genesis 22:3 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.
Genesis 22:4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.
Genesis 22:5 And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.
Genesis 22:6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.
Genesis 22:7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?
Genesis 22:8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.
Genesis 22:9 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.
Genesis 22:10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.
Genesis 22:11 And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.
Genesis 22:12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.
Genesis 22:13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.
Genesis 22:14 And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.
Genesis 22:15 And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time,

Genesis 22:16 And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:
Genesis 22:17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;
Genesis 22:18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.
Genesis 22:19 So Abraham returned unto his young men, and they rose up and went together to Beer-sheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beer-sheba.

Hebrews 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,
Hebrews 11:18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:
Hebrews 11:19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

LESSONS FROM ABRAHAM'S MOUNT MORIAH EXPERIENCE.

II Chronicles 3:1 Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the Lord appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.

Mount Moriah is an elongated stretch of land running north-south and lying between Kidron Valley and "Hagai" Valley, between Mount Zion to the west and the Mount of Olives to the east.

Most likely, Abraham went to the highest point in this mountain range-Golgotha. This would have been the most logical point from which to offer a sacrifice.

If this be the case, than Mount Moriah, where Isaac was sacrificed, could be two possible places.

IT COULD BE THE TEMPLE SITE.
OR IT COULD BE GOLGOTHA, Where our Lord was crucified.

The Jews believe it to be the temple site.

But the Jews have known to be wrong and it really could be Golgotha! Which is the highest point of Mount Moriah.

HAVE YOU HAD A MOUNT MORIAH DEDICATION EXPERIENCE?

Each of us needs to lay down our Isaac on mount Moriah.

It says that Abraham received his Isaac back as a figure.

Here we see the principles of death and resurrection.

Abraham believe in a resurrection because the Bible teaches he believed God would resurrect Isaac if he did sacrifice him.

I. We each need to offer up our Isaacs on Mount Moriah.

What is the most important thing to you in life?
What is your life all about?
What is the culmination of your life?

Jesus said:

Matthew 10:38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.
Matthew 10:39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.
Matthew 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

For Abraham, the greatest thing in his life was Isaac.
Isaac was the fulfillment of God's promise to him.

1. JESUS GAVE THE GREATEST COMMAND FOR US TO FOLLOW.

Matthew 22:36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?
Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Is it too much to ask us to put Him first?

He made us and all we have He gave us and we are made for Him.

More and more there is an attack on the concept of ownership.

God owns us.
And what we own we own because He gave it to us.

Job had a Mount Moriah experience.

Job 1:21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

Job 1:22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

2. It is only reasonable that we be willing to offer up our Issac to God if called upon to do so.

For some their own lives are their Isaacs.

> ***Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.***

For some their families are their Isaacs.

> ***Matthew 10:37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.***
> ***Matthew 10:38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.***

For Some their careers, jobs, success, hobbies.

WHAT IS OUR ISAAC? WHAT IS THAT THING IN LIFE THAT MEANS MORE TO YOU THAN ANYTHING ELSE??

II. A Mount Moriah Experience is Where We Are Tested to See If Our Devotion to God is Greater Than Our Devotion for Our Issac.

We can be challenged in a message.
It can be an experience like Job had.
It can be any form of testing.

FOR ABRAHAM, GOD TOLD HIM EXPLICITLY TO TAKE HIS SON TO MOUNT MORIAH.

What is your Isaac?
Have you had an opportunity to offer up your Isaac to God?

III. After We Offer Up Our Isaac to God We Can Receive A Resurrected Issac, figuratively speaking.

Hebrews 11:18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:
Hebrews 11:19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

Received him in a figure.

Has our Isaac been truly dedicated to God?

Then we can receive him back in a figure.

What is a figure?

A figure is a picture, meaning it is as if it happened but yet it did not happen.

It is an illustration.

ON MOUNT MORIAH.

It was just as if Abraham did offer up his son.
It was just as if Abraham did receive him back from the dead.

IV. APPLICATION.

WHAT IS YOUR ISSAC?
HAVE YOU BEEN TO MOUNT MORIAH?
HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR ISSAC BACK? Have you entered into the experience of Calvary?

Which is death.
Burial.
Resurrection .

John 12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.
John 12:25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.
John 12:26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

PATRIARCHS ISAAC
EVENING SERVICE

THE PATRIARCH ISAAC:

Genesis 24:16 And the damsel was very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her: and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up.

Genesis 24:58 And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go.
Genesis 24:59 And they sent away Rebekah their sister, and her nurse, and Abraham's servant, and his men.
Genesis 24:60 And they blessed Rebekah, and said unto her, Thou art our sister, be thou the mother of thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them.
Genesis 24:61 And Rebekah arose, and her damsels, and they rode upon the camels, and followed the man: and the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.
Genesis 24:62 And Isaac came from the way of the well Lahai-roi; for he dwelt in the south country.
Genesis 24:63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming.
Genesis 24:64 And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel.
Genesis 24:65 For she had said unto the servant, What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant had said, It is my master: therefore she took a veil, and covered herself.
Genesis 24:66 And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done.
Genesis 24:67 And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Genesis 25:5 And Abraham gave all that he had unto Isaac.
Genesis 25:6 But unto the sons of the concubines, which Abraham had, Abraham gave gifts, and sent them away from Isaac his son, while he yet lived, eastward, unto the east country.
Genesis 25:7 And these are the days of the years of Abraham's life which he lived, an hundred threescore and fifteen years.
Genesis 25:8 Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people.
Genesis 25:9 And his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, which is before Mamre;
Genesis 25:10 The field which Abraham purchased of the sons of Heth: there was Abraham buried, and Sarah his wife.
Genesis 25:11 And it came to pass after the death of Abraham, that God blessed his son Isaac; and Isaac dwelt by the well Lahai-roi.

Genesis 25:19 And these are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham begat Isaac:
Genesis 25:20 And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padan-aram, the sister to Laban the Syrian.
Genesis 25:21 And Isaac entreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was entreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.
Genesis 25:22 And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to inquire of the LORD.
Genesis 25:23 And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.
Genesis 25:24 And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb.
Genesis 25:25 And the first came out red, all over like an hairy garment; and they called his name Esau.
Genesis 25:26 And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them.
Genesis 25:27 And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents.
Genesis 25:28 And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob.
Genesis 25:29 And Jacob sod pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he was faint:
Genesis 25:30 And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom.
Genesis 25:31 And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright.
Genesis 25:32 And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me?
Genesis 25:33 And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he sware unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob.
Genesis 25:34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright.

LIFE OF ISAAC

I. His Marriage With Rebekah:

1. THE PROCESS OF GETTING A WIFE FOR ISAAC. ABRAHAM SENT HIS SERVANT ELIEZER BACK TO HIS FAMILY.

Eliezer was sent of Abraham to get a wife for Isaac from his brother's family,
Bethuel the Syrian of Padan-aram, the sister to Laban the Syrian.

Rebekah was a granddaughter of Abraham's brother, Nahor.
Milcah was the daughter of Abraham's other Brother, Haran.

Rebekah was the daughter of Bethuel and an unknown mother, granddaughter of Nahor and Milcah, Laban was Rebekah's brother.

Linage:

Genesis 11:29 And Abram and Nahor took them wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah, and the father of Iscah.

Rebekah was the daughter of Abraham's brother's son.
Nahor's son was Bethuel.
Bethuel's daughter was Rebekah.

2. ISAAC NEVER SAW HIS WIFE TILL AFTER THEY WERE MARRIED.

Genesis 24:65 For she had said unto the servant, What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant had said, It is my master: therefore she took a veil, and covered herself.
Genesis 24:66 And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done.
Genesis 24:67 And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

How different this marriage was from our Western pattern of choosing a partner on our own.

II. THE GREATEST CONFLICT THAT WE SEE IN ISAAC'S LIFE WAS THAT HE LOVED ESAU AND HIS WIFE, AND THE LORD LOVED JACOB.

Genesis 25:27 And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents.
Genesis 25:28 And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob.
Genesis 25:29 And Jacob sod pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he was faint:
Genesis 25:30 And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom.

Malachi 1:1 The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.
Malachi 1:2 I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob,
Malachi 1:3 And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness.

I. Why did Isaac prefer Esau?

Genesis 25:28 And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Esau was more of a man of the world. He was more masculine.
Esau was more of a man's man.

Esau did things to please his father.

II. WHY DID THE LORD PREFER JACOB?

1. IT WASN'T BECAUSE OF WHAT IS MORE ESTEEMED OF MEN.

Esau was a great hunter, more masculine.

Accordingly Isaac loved and preferred him.

2. What was more lovable about Jacob?

A. Only that he desired the blessings of God more than Esau.
B. He valued the blessings of God more than Esau.
C. He sought the blessings of God more than Esau.

Application:

The Lord does not look at what we are or even where we are.
The Lord sees what we desire to be and where we are headed.

Esau was more of the world and therefore married into the world.
Jacob wanted God's blessings. He even wrestled with God for those blessings.

He married into the family of Nahor, Milcha.
He married the daughters of Laban, Rebekah's brother.

Genesis 27:46 And Rebekah said to Isaac, I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth: if Jacob take a wife of the daughters of Heth, such as these which are of the daughters of the land, what good shall my life do me?
Genesis 28:1 And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan.
Genesis 28:2 Arise, go to Padan-aram, to the house of Bethuel thy mother's father; and take thee a wife from thence of the daughters of Laban thy mother's brother.

Genesis 28:3 And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people;

Esau did not understand the principles of God's blessing.

Genesis 28:6 When Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob, and sent him away to Padan-aram, to take him a wife from thence; and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan;
Genesis 28:7 And that Jacob obeyed his father and his mother, and was gone to Padan-aram;
Genesis 28:8 And Esau seeing that the daughters of Canaan pleased not Isaac his father;
Genesis 28:9 Then went Esau unto Ishmael, and took unto the wives which he had Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife.

THIS IS WHY JACOB WAS LOVED.
IT WAS NOT BECAUSE HE WAS LOVABLE.
IT WAS BECAUSE HE SOUGHT THE BLESSING.

The Bible Says Esau was profane.

Hebrews 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;
Hebrews 12:16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.
Hebrews 12:17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.