

Abraham – A Man of Believing Faith

Hebrews 11:8-19

There was a man who had been in the wilderness for a long time.

He was hungry but he was especially thirsty.

He stumbled upon this old house where no one lived.

The house had only part of a roof and the doors were hanging sideways.

He walked in and sat down to rest.

He saw this old hand pump in one corner of the house.

He went over and starting pumping as hard as he could.

All he got was squeaking sounds and dust.

He walked back over and sat down.

He then saw a jaw and a note attached to it.

The note read you have to use the water in the jar to prime the pump.

He then had a decision to make: Should he drink the water in the jar that possibly had been in there for some time or should he take a chance and do as the note asked.

He decided he would do as the note read but only part of the water.

He poured in some of the water and began to pump.

All he got was the familiar squeaking but one drop of water.

He quickly poured in the rest of the water from the jar.

He began pumping again and soon there was all the water he could want.

He filled the jar back up and added to the note, it really works but you have to give it all away.

This could describe the life of Abraham.

Abraham a man who lived a believing faith..

1. Abraham believed when he didn't know where he was going.

There is more said about the faith of Abraham than any other of the Old Testament characters.

In Romans 4, Paul calls Abraham, the “father of all who believe.”

Why is Abraham call this?

Because of his faith.

Vs - 8 God tells Abraham to leave his family and go to a place that God would show him.

God said go and Abraham said where God and God said I'll tell you when we get there.

This was a great step of faith on Abraham's part.

How many of us would do this?

We like to know where we are going, right?

Most of the time we travel on roads that are familiar to us.

We are predictable people.

We take the same route to work, to school, and to the grocery store.

Even when the conditions aren't so good, we can travel those roads because we are familiar with them.

Imagine waking every day to travel on ground that you don't know.

But if you are Abraham, you don't have to be afraid.

God has called you, God will take care of you.

Abraham heard God say “Go” and he didn't hesitate or flinch.

Abraham believed and He was rewarded for his faith.

Who was his faith in?

God.

2. Abraham believed when he didn't know how it was going to happen.

In verses 11-12, we come to the second stage of Abraham's life of faith.

These verses depict God's covenant promise to Abraham of a son.

In Genesis 12, at the age of 75, Abraham receives word from God that he would be a father.

They were childless.

In Genesis 16 – 11 years after God's initial promise, Abraham, becomes impatient.

He obtains permission from his wife Sarah to be intimate with her slave, Hagar.

Hagar bears a son, and his name is called Ishmael, the father of the Arab people.

In Genesis 18, 13 years later; and, 24 years after the initial promise, God reminds Abraham that He is going to give him a son.

However, now, Abraham is 99 years old, and his wife is 90 years old.

Therefore, he is forced to believe God, concerning a son, when he didn't know how God would bring it to pass.

In verse 12, the phrase "as good as dead" is used.

This is a medical term referring to the ability to reproduce an offspring.

In other words, medically, scientifically and physically speaking, Abraham and Sarah were "as good as dead" when it came to the matter of child-bearing.

God not only promised Abraham a son, but that the offspring of his son would be as many as the "stars of the sky."

However, this would be the fulfillment of Genesis 12: 2, where God promised to Abraham, "I will make you into a great nation."

Even though it was unnatural, unreasonable, and unbelievable; Abraham believed God.

3. Abraham believed when he didn't understand why.

One of the hardest things to do is trust when you don't feel like it.

In our passage, we find ourselves atop a place called Mount Moriah.

It is at this place that we find Abraham going through the greatest trial of his life.

It is on this mountain that Abraham's faith is going through the ultimate test.

It is here that Abraham was called upon to sacrifice his only son to the Lord.

This is the son he had been waiting for 24 years.

I can see Abraham now as he lays the wood on the altar and binds his son and lays him on the altar with the wood.

He must be thinking in his mind; God this makes no sense.

You promised me this son and that the world will be blessed by him and now you want him back.

Let me tell you what this teaches me.

It teaches me that obedience to God is to be done even if it makes no sense.

It doesn't make any difference if we know why God wants us to do something; He does.

What is God asking you to do that takes great faith?