

UNSTOPPABLE BLESSINGS

© 2001 Mark Beaird

Text: Genesis 26:12-25

Prospering in the face of the unbelieving and unconverted often brings resentment on their part and even problems for the one who is prospering. Abraham experienced it in Genesis 13:5-7 when conflict arose between his shepherds and those of Lot. In this passage there is a subtle parallel drawn between Abraham and Isaac. Both were blessed because of the promise of God and both had to deal with carnal individuals who resented their being blessed.

The problem is found in Genesis 26:12-13, *“Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year reaped a hundredfold, because the LORD blessed him. The man became rich, and his wealth continued to grow until he became very wealthy.”*

One would think that if he served God and did what was right that everyone would be happy for him and all would be well. Yet we see that in the case of Isaac his enemies attempted to deprive him of his blessed life. However, note these important facts, there only two **ways** Isaac could have been deprived of his blessing and neither of them were in the power of his enemy.

I. HE COULD HAVE GIVEN UP WHEN HIS ENEMY FILLED IN HIS WELLS.

A. There will always be people who will resent your blessing—Satan certainly will.

Genesis 26:14-16, *“He had so many flocks and herds and servants that the Philistines envied him. So all the wells that his father's servants had dug in the time of his father Abraham, the Philistines stopped up, filling them with earth. Then Abimelech said to Isaac, “Move away from us; you have become too powerful for us.”NIV*

B. Do not be discouraged when or if opposition continues.

Genesis 26:20-21, *“But the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen and said, “The water is ours!” So he named the well Esek, because they disputed with him. Then they dug another well, but they quarreled over that one also; so he named it Sitnah.” NIV*

Isaac knew the value of NOT fighting unnecessary battles. Perhaps he had learned this from his father Abraham who reasoned with Lot (Gen. 13). They both knew that those who opposed them could not stop them from being blessed.

So, what do you do when you face those who are jealous and envious of you? Just give them room!

II. HE COULD HAVE REFUSED OR NEGLECTED TO DIG NEW WELLS.

A. There is always a fresh blessing for those who will persist.

Genesis 26:18-19, *“Isaac reopened the wells that had been dug in the time of his father Abraham, which the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died, and he gave them the same names his father had given them. Isaac's servants dug in the valley and discovered a well of fresh water there.” NIV*

B. Peace and prosperity is the reward of the faithful.

Genesis 26:22-25, *“He moved on from there and dug another well, and no one quarreled over it. He named it Rehoboth, saying, “Now the LORD has given us room and we will flourish in the land.”*

From there he went up to Beersheba. That night the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham.”

Isaac built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD. There he pitched his tent, and there his servants dug a well.”

Peace and prosperity come in various ways but the blessing nevertheless awaits the faithful.

“The whole depiction of Isaac in this narrative, then, shows that he, like Abraham, enjoyed the firstfruits of God's blessing—even though it resulted in and took place amid bitter contention with those among whom they lived. Clearly the narrative intends to point to the patriarchs as those whose lives most clearly pictured the kind of blessing God intended his people to enjoy. At the same time, these narratives point to the stark reality that even the fathers did not enjoy the full blessing. They too had to face adversity; but they trusted God, and he blessed them amid the conflict.” *Expositor's Bible Commentary*

CONCLUSION

The promises of God are as sure as His Word. Blessing will come to those who serve Him faithfully. However, contention, be it with Satan or carnal people, is also certain. What matters is not what they do but the *ways* in which we respond to what they do. This will determine the continued flow of blessing in our lives.