

EXCERPTS FROM ISAAC

CHAPTER 8 (PP. 118-119)

LESSONS LEARNED FROM ISAAC'S LIFE

It is tempting and possible to think there is little for us to learn from such a character as Isaac—probably, because, he is given less prominence in the patriarchal narratives in the Bible than his father Abraham and his son Jacob—or probably, because his life was so quiet and uneventful that it was spent “within the circle of a few miles; so guileless that he let his son Jacob overreach him rather than disbelieve his assurance; so tender that his mother’s death was the poignant sorrow of years; so patient and gentle that peace with his neighbors was dearer to him than even such a coveted possession as a well of living water dug by his own men; so grandly obedient that he put his life at his father’s disposal; so firm in his reliance on God that his greatest concern through life was to honor the divine promise given to his race.” [1]

Nay! These aren’t really the case when we take into account the very many other important truths about Isaac’s life that are illustrated in the scriptures and also in this study. As we can see, there are definitely many profitable lessons to be learned from his life, character traits, and leadership.

Of course, it’s not that hard to identify with Isaac in his weaknesses, because his figure as delineated in the book of Genesis is much less striking than that of his father Abraham and his son Jacob. Nonetheless, as the Bible shows, he was a wealthy and powerful individual in his time—well respected by his peers, and he still maintains great influence in our time. As a matter of fact, he is revered by not only the Jews, but also the Christians and Moslems. Some have described him as a “legendary figure,” and others view him as a “figure representing tribal history—though as a historical individual” or as a “semi nomadic leader.”

Yet, “By his manner of life—always quiet, gentle, guileless, and faithful to God’s guidance, he ever was the worthy heir and transmitter of the glorious promises made to Abraham. He was preeminently a man of peace, the fitting type of the Prince of Peace (our Lord Jesus Christ), whose great sacrifice on Mount Calvary was foreshadowed by his obedience unto death on Mount Moriah.” [2] He’s even one of those listed in the book of Matthew 1:2 as the ancestors of Jesus Christ.

Although he is not a perfect hero we might have expected, his story obviously gives us a lot of practical wisdom for our spiritual lives and the spiritual lives of our kids. He's definitely an example of how God uses flawed but faithful people to accomplish His plans and purposes. Below are some of the profoundly important and profitable lessons to be drawn from his life and leadership.

ENDNOTES

[1] From Easton Illustrated Dictionary, *Advanced Information: Isaac* (<http://mb-soft.com/believe/txh/isaac.htm>).

[2] Ibid, *Catholic Information: Isaac* (<http://mb-soft.com/believe/txh/isaac.htm>).