**Blessings Even for The Imperfect**

***26****Now there was a famine in the land, besides the former famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Gerar to Abimelech king of the Philistines.****2****And the Lord appeared to him and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you.****3****Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father.****4****I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed,****5****because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.”*

***6****So Isaac settled in Gerar.****7****When the men of the place asked him about his wife, he said, “She is my sister,” for he feared to say, “My wife,” thinking, “lest the men of the place should kill me because of Rebekah,” because she was attractive in appearance.****8****When he had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out of a window and saw Isaac laughing with[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=gen%2026&version=ESV#fen-ESV-701a)*] Rebekah his wife.****9****So Abimelech called Isaac and said, “Behold, she is your wife. How then could you say, ‘She is my sister’?” Isaac said to him, “Because I thought, ‘Lest I die because of her.’”****10****Abimelech said, “What is this you have done to us? One of the people might easily have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us.”****11****So Abimelech warned all the people, saying, “Whoever touches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death.”*

***12****And Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. The Lord blessed him,****13****and the man became rich, and gained more and more until he became very wealthy. (Genesis 26:1-13, ESV)*

 Even an imperfect man is blessed by God when he belongs to Him. Greetings dear brothers and sisters as we talk today about God’s blessings upon Isaac. The episode itself seems like an echo of what happened to Abraham earlier in Genesis. Isaac stays in the Holy Land and creates problems for himself but winds up with an unexpected blessing from God. Today, we’re going to talk about where such goodness or blessing comes from, and how we can understand the events within this episode. Let’s see how blessings are bestowed even on imperfect people…

 The one that belongs to God, even in their sins, will be blessed by virtue of their attachment to God. Perhaps this idea seems unfair or strange to us. The latter is especially true for us when we note that there was an element of deception in Isaac’s behavior in this episode. He wasn’t honest about his wife to the Philistines. We are wrong, however, if we overlook his greater obedience earlier in the account. In fact, Isaac, did not go to Egypt, but remained nomadic, as Abraham did (obeying God’s specific directions and promise). In response to his decision to obey God, the Lord promised him that He would bless him with a supernatural blessing, which transcended his generation and lifetime. Through this blessing from God, the generations coming from and after Isaac would prosper. Yes, God would bless Isaac for Abraham’s sake, but also because of his obedience in staying in the land that he was in. The human error and weakness were not as important or weighty – what was more crucial was Isaac’s heart.

 Isaac was connected to God by his desire to please Him. It was pleasing to God that Isaac stay in Canaan. Isaac decided to follow God’s path rather than his own, which would have been to go to Egypt. Yes, it is true that he erred and lied. It is true that the local king, Abimelech was justified in his anger. However, due to the fact that Isaac had been obedient to God earlier, the Lord still made a way through for Isaac, to find success and be blessed with great wealth.

 God rescues us from dangers when we are in the right place and doing the right work (which is God’s desired and chosen work for us). There was once a missionary who was serving on an island with his wife, when hostile natives surrounded the mission compound with the intention of burning down the building on top of the serving couple. The man prayed all night along with his wife, and at daybreak, surprisingly, the hostile mob left the area without doing anything harmful. A year later, the chieftain of the hostile tribe came to Christ. The missionary asked why the people had not set fire to the compound. The chieftain was surprised at the question and asked, “Who were those men with you?” But the missionary knew that there was no one with them but he and his wife. The chieftain, however, said that they were afraid to attack because there were hundreds of large men in shiny clothing, with swords drawn, circling the compound.

 So, what about us? This message should be an encouragement to us, dearly beloved – that even in our sins, God is always trying to bless us due to our devotion to Him. God’s love and care for us does not fade or shut off when we fall for a moment or sin. Rather, god does what is good and works to free us from all dangers if we stay connected to Him (however imperfectly we do that).

 Therefore, even if we mess up like Isaac did and commit sin and then come back to God, He will not reject us or anyone who comes to Him. This shows us the limitless love of our Heavenly Father, who loves His children with all of our imperfections included.

 So, let us relax – God is going to keep loving us even when we are in the wrong but seek His goodness or need His intervention. Let us not be afraid to go to the Lord when we sin or to trust in Him or wait for His intervention in a matter.

 Remember: the one who belongs to the Lord, even in their sins, will be blessed because they are hanging on to God. God is truly that good toward His kids.

 So, don’t be afraid; just come back again to God from your wrong path.

 God bless you all. Amen.