

Pastor Ron Case
10/23/16

“The Next Generation”

Abraham (Part 19)

“...For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.”

(2 Corinthians 12:14 NKJV)

Care for the Next Generation

Genesis 24:1-9 – (1) “Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. (2) And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he had, ‘Put your hand under my thigh, (3) that I may make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell, (4) but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac.’ (5) The servant said to him, ‘Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?’ (6) Abraham said to him, ‘See to it that you do not take my son back there. (7) The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father’s house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, ‘To your offspring I will give this land,’ he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. (8) But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine; only you must not take my son back there.’ (9) So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master and swore to him concerning this matter.”

Prayer for the Next Generation

Genesis 24:10-15 – (10) “Then the servant took ten of his master’s camels and departed, taking all sorts of choice gifts from his master; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia to the city of Nahor. (11) And he made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at the time of evening, the time when women go out to draw water. (12) And he said, ‘O LORD, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham. (13) Behold, I am standing by the spring of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. (14) Let the young woman to whom I shall say, ‘Please let down your jar that I may drink,’ and who shall say, ‘Drink, and I will water your camels’—let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I shall know that you have shown steadfast love to my master.’ (15) Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham’s brother, came out with her water jar on her shoulder.”

Cheer for the Next Generation

Genesis 24:67 – “Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.”

Worthwhile Goal: “One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.” (Psalm 145:4)

Thoughts:

Invest Liberally in the Next Generation

“I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls. If I love you more, am I to be loved less?” (2 Corinthians 12:15)

Beware Isolation Insanity

“Again, I saw vanity under the sun: one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, ‘For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?’ This also is vanity and an unhappy business.” (Ecclesiastes 4:7-8)

Reverse the Curse

“And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.” (Malachi 4:6 NKJV)

Questions to Ponder:

- (1) What impacted me most from this message?
- (2) How am I choosing to influence/bless the next generation?

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)