**Origins (pt.2) - wk 14 – The End (but the Beginning)**

**The LORD called an unlikely wanderer to leave everything and follow…**

**Abe did, and over the course of 62 years, he went through a series of trials, stumbles, and tests, and a promised.**

**Abe passed the last of 10 tests (last week - Online)**

**Now the epilogue: Genesis 22:19 So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.**

**20 Now after these things (length of time) it was told to Abraham, “Behold, Milcah also has borne children to your brother Nahor: (yrs earlier he left his family in UR behind)**

**21 Uz his firstborn, Buz his brother, Kemuel the father of Aram, 22 Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel.” 23 (Bethuel fathered Rebekah.) These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham's brother. 24 Moreover, his (Nahor’s) concubine, whose name was Reumah, bore Tebah, Gaham, Tahash, and Maacah.**

**BTW - God never commands nor sanctions polygamy. Ever.**

**When it happens, it is a description not prescription. And the outcomes are usually followed with chaos and quarrels.**

**Gen 2:24 - A man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.**

**\*\* Does anything stand out to you in this? (hint - v23)**

**The birth of the one who would grow up to be the future wife of the promised son, Isaac (Rebekah). A foreshadowing.**

**Genesis 23:1 Sarah lived 127 years; these were the years of the life of Sarah. (she lived a long full life – Isaac, her only son, would be 37)2 And Sarah died at Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.**

**Sarah is special: Only woman in the Bible whose age of death are given. She holds a special place as the mother of the Hebrew people and, ultimately, of the redeemed.**

**Nowhere in the Bible are we told to look to Mary the mother of Jesus as an example of a godly woman. Twice we are told to look to Sarah as such an example – even for men (Is 51:1-2, 1 Pet 3:3-6).**

**Abe weeps over the death of his wife - Life together, the trials/victories.**

**After a time of mourning - he needed to prepare for her burial.**

**3 And Abraham rose up from before his dead and said to the Hittites, 4 “I am a sojourner and foreigner among you; (been living there 62 yrs as a resident – yet calls himself a foreigner.) give me (sell me) property among you for a burying place, that I may bury my dead out of my sight.” 5 The Hittites answered Abraham, 6 “Hear us, my lord; you are a prince of God among us. (Abe refers to self as a humble sojourner, they call him a “prince of Elohim” What a reputation) Bury your dead in the choicest of our tombs. None of us will withhold from you his tomb to hinder you from burying your dead.” (Take your pick, have it!)**

**7 Abraham rose and bowed to the Hittites, (showing respect and humility) the people of the land. 8 And he said to them, “If you are willing that I should bury my dead out of my sight, hear me and entreat for me Ephron the son of Zohar, 9 that he may give me the cave of Machpelah, which he owns; it is at the end of his field. For the full price let him give it to me in your presence as property for a burying place.”**

**Abe had his eye on this place – he had lived in that area years earlier and knew the cave. He was willing to pay full price.**

**10 Now Ephron was sitting among the Hittites, and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the hearing of the Hittites, of all who went in at the gate of his city, (the place legal official business took place ) 11 “No, my lord, hear me: I give you the field, and I give you the cave that is in it. In the sight of the sons of my people I give it to you. Bury your dead.” (Please, it’s yours - you can have it!)**

**12 Then Abraham bowed down before the people of the land. 13 And he said to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, “But if you will, hear me: I give the price of the field. Accept it from me, that I may bury my dead there.” (let me pay for it – how much?) 14 Ephron answered Abraham, 15 “My lord, listen to me: a piece of land worth four hundred shekels of silver, what is that between you and me? Bury your dead.” (You have to buy the land it’s on too, 400 shekels of silver - $5000 to 100,000) 16 Abraham listened to Ephron, and Abraham weighed out for Ephron the silver that he had named in the hearing of the Hittites, four hundred shekels of silver, according to the weights current among the merchants. (okay. He was not going to tarnish Sarahs memory by haggling over her grave)**

**He was not being prideful, denying help or a donation. 2 views:**

**1 – This was how negotiations began – decline the first offer.**

**2 – He wanted undisputed ownership. It cannot be taken back.**

**17 So the field of Ephron in Machpelah, which was to the east of Mamre, the field with the cave that was in it and all the trees that were in the field, throughout its whole area, was made over 18 to Abraham as a possession in the presence of the Hittites, before all who went in at the gate of his city. (legal and Binding - reflects a biblical principle for the allowance of ownership of property)**

**The first & only property Abe bought - finally a landowner in the promised land. Land God said would all belong to his family one day. He bought it knowing they would be there.**

**19 After this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah east of Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan. 20 The field and the cave that is in it were made over (deeded) to Abraham as property for a burying place by the Hittites.**

**Abe and his servants take the body of Sarah, crawl down into the cave (rock hole) - tears flowing - and lay her body to rest.**

**This is Abe mourning, weeping, preparing and bearing the burden to bury his wife. A husbands love of his wife unto death. This is about the ones living after a death. The ones who remain.**

**Chap 24: This is a series on Abraham. How Isaac meets and marries Rebeka. A series on Isaac and Jacob will cover this.**

**(Years later) Genesis 25:1 Abraham had taken another wife, whose name was Keturah. (Biblical allowance and example of remarriage after death). 2 She bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak and Shuah. 3 Jokshan was the father of Sheba and Dedan; the descendants of Dedan were the Ashurites, the Letushites and the Leummites. 4 The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanok, Abida and Eldaah. All these were descendants of Keturah. (8 sons total - but Isaac alone was the son of promise).**

**5 Abraham left everything he owned to Isaac. 6 But while he was still living, he gave gifts to the sons of his concubines (the wives - Hagar and Keturah) and sent them away from his son Isaac to the land of the east.**

**7 Abraham lived a hundred and seventy-five years. 8 Then Abraham breathed his last and died at a good old age, an old man and full of years; and he was gathered to his people. 9 His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah near Mamre, in the field of Ephron son of Zohar the Hittite, 10 the field Abraham had bought from the Hittites. There Abraham was buried with his wife Sarah. 11 After Abraham’s death, God blessed his son Isaac, who then lived near Beer Lahai Roi.**

**That cave became a family gravesite for three couples. Sarah/Abraham, Isaac/Rebeka, and Jacob/Leah.**

**David would build his Hebron palace overlooking the cave.**

**Today, it is known as the cave of the patriarchs. Where their ashes & bones lie under the building – to this day.**

**Reality – Dealing With Loss**

**1. Death is inevitable**

**Since Genesis 3 - Adam & Eve introduced death into the world.**

**No one has been able to beat it since (expect Jesus).**

**Birth & death are a reality - babies will be born the day we die. Life is precious, fragile, short – and goes on.**

**2. We all have a date with destiny – an appointed time to die.**

**Sarah and Abe lived as long as the Lord has appointed for them.**

**Psalms 139:16** **Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.**

**Job 14:5 Since his (mankinds) days are determined, and the number of his months is with you, and you have appointed his limits that he cannot pass…**

**Hebrews 9:27 - It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment…**

**We don’t get endless tries in reincarnation cycles, or a haunting option – this life is it and we then we face God.**

**3. The greater the love – the greater the pain.**

**The sting and pain of death is the most difficult hardship of life.**

**When we love, we face this reality – loss. It is okay and healthy to hurt.**

**Abe was intentional about his mourning. In the ancient world it was a very public event. Wearing scratchy sackcloth, at times sitting/wiping ashes on your body. Load moaning.**

**There is nothing weak or faithless about grief – this man of great faith loved his wife and will miss her – he didn’t hide his pain.**

**4. We all need time and a season to mourn a loss**

**We are created with emotions, and we should learn to express them at appropriate times. Ecclesiastes 3 – “A time to weep.” There is a time to weep**

**Some suggest that weeping is for the weak – but it’s not.**

**The strong understand the right times to weep.**

**Jesus wept - over loss of a friend, for Jerusalem, and in the garden facing his crucifixion. (Jo 11:35, Lu 19:41, Lu 22:39-46)**

**Rom 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.**

**Remember that:**

**5. In Life and in death, God is working his perfect plan and will.**

**Gen 22:23 – In a brief mention of Abes family – “Bethuel fathered Rebekah.”**

**The birth of Rebekah. She would grow up to be the future wife of the promised son, Isaac. This is why it is mentioned. God is always working to accomplish his purposes in life and death.**

**6. This world is not our home – this is not the end.**

**He lived there 62 yrs– yet he called himself a foreigner. He knew his real home was not in this world. He was passing through.**

**Even David and the prophets, though in possession of the land, referred to themselves as strangers/foreigners (Lev 25:23, 1 Chr 29:14-15, Ps 39:12).**

**In the NT – this is echoed again and again (Eph 2:19, 1 Pet 2:11, Phi 3:20.**

**If we are to deal with loss we must have the same mindset.**

**7. The righteous live twice**

**Everyone is an eternal being – destined to an eternal destination.**

**But only those righteous in Christ – will know everlasting life.**

**John 3:3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”**

**8. Though we mourn – in Christ we mourn with hope**

**Even Abe understood that he would see Sarah again.**

**1 Thess 4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.**

**We cry with Hope! For the redeemed – this is not the end.**

**Legacy – Living and Leaving Well**

**We all have a legacy – what will be yours?**

* **A lasting legacy begins with knowing the LORD GOD**

**Abe sought to know the LORD in every season – at every place.**

**(Solomon) Ecclesiastes 1:14 I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind. (he has done and had it all, it left him empty – he concludes…) Ecc 12:13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. (All that matters - fear God and know his ways)**

**You could have it all and still have nothing**

**Luke 9:25 For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?**

**All that matters is - to Know Him and make Him know.**

* **A lasting legacy is crafted in how one lives**

**Leaving a legacy is not passing on an inheritance or possessions, but a character that can be repeated.**

**By the time we get to the end of Abe’s life he reflects tremendous humility and generosity. Considered a “prince of God.”**

**Brokenness brought humility. The greatest of all traits. It is only in humility that one can know the LORD, give love and serve others.**

**Focus on character that honors God. What will be endeared and cherished about you is not your money but your compassion and integrity. That is a lasting legacy.**

* **A lasting legacy bases priorities on heaven, not earth**

**Abe saw himself as a sojourner in the promised land. His eyes were on something greater. A greater Kingdom – the kingdom of God.**

**Hebrews 11:9 By faith he (Abraham) went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.**

**A legacy in proper perspective is eternal with eternal values.**

**Laying up treasures in heaven (Matt 6:19:21).**

**A mirror of a parable in this story. Abe buys the whole field to possess the treasure of the cave. “pearl of great price” Matt 13.**

* **A lasting legacy focuses on people not possessions**

**Success is not measured by possessions and positions, but by successions (that is people).**

**The only thing that we can take to heaven with us are people. Not a job, career, portfolio, collections, hobbies, house, etc.**

* **A lasting legacy realizes the most important day of your marriage will be your last.**

**Through all the mistakes and fumbles. All the let downs and sidetracks. Did you love to the very end – the one entrusted to you?**

**The greatest gift you can give your kids is the gospel lived out.**

**The 2nd greatest gift - is a healthy marriage.**

**People won’t be talking about us 50 yrs after we are dead. But the legacy we leave keeps speaking. A legacy of family who knows and follow the LORD – have healthy marriages - long after we are gone.**

* **A lasting legacy reflects faith and obedience in the LORD**

**Abe was a man who faced 10 major tests – and though he failed many of them – he never stopped stepping out in obedience.**

**Abe was not perfect, but he loved the LORD and was growing. He stumbled but he never gave up. He was a man of faith and action.**

**In Christ alone (1992 song lyrics)**

**In Christ alone, will I glory / Though I could pride myself in battles won / For I've been blessed beyond measure / And by His strength alone, I overcome /**

**Oh, I could stop and count successes / Like diamonds in my hands / But those trophies could not equal / To the grace by which I stand**

**And now I seek no greater honor / Than just to know Him more / And to count my gains but losses / To the glory of my Lord**

**In Christ alone, I place my trust / And find my glory in the power of the cross / In every victory, let it be said of me / My source of strength, my source of hope is Christ alone**

**Let it be said of me… Ted humbly trusted and followed Jesus**

**God help us to live and leave well – walking in faith with you!**

**Genesis 12:1 Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will (1) make of you a great nation, (yes, Israel) and I will (2) bless you (Yes, he was) and (3) make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. (Yes, called a prince of Elohim and today) 3 I will (4) bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, (Yes, to those around him) and (5) in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (Gen 22:18 and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”) (Yes - Jesus Christ!)**

**He obeyed – he stepped out – he stumbled but never wavered.**

**He was a man of faith – in the LORD GOD.**

**Abraham is a mortal man unlike any other. He stands unrivaled. However, he was just a man.**

**But thru his faith, Jesus the Messiah was born, lived, crucified, and resurrected. “A blessing to the nations” salvation to those who believe.**

**LIFE TEAM LESSON – July 28, 2024**

**Prayer requests:**

* **Have you ever had someone you love pass away?**
* **What was that experience like?**
* **How did you process that?**

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

* **What stands out about this passage?**
* **What questions are stirred out of this passage?**

**(Leader this might take a while – flow with the direction of the questions. This can be a controversial passage.)**

**Leaving a Legacy!**

* **Abraham’s life left an incredible mark on the world. What are some things that are significant about Abraham’s legacy?**
* **Have you ever thought about what your legacy will be after you leave this life? How often?**
* **What do you want people to say about you? (go around the group)**
* **What do these verse say about leaving a godly legacy?**

**(discuss each one – highlight the character traits)**

**Proverbs 13:22, Proverbs 20:7, Proverbs 22:1-4, Proverbs 3:1-2**

**Psalm 112:1-2, Psalm 127:1-5, 1 Timothy 1:3-5, Psalm 78:1-7**

**Deuteronomy 6:1-9, Matthew 6:20-21**

**\*\*\* God help us to consider our lives and how we might leave a lasting impact on those around us.**