

“Spiritual Heritage”

Script - Jn. 8:56-59

A. Heritage

1. Definition

a. Something that is handed down from the past, as a tradition: a national heritage of honor, pride, and courage.

b. Something that comes or belongs to one by reason of birth; an inherited lot or portion: a heritage of poverty and suffering.

c. Something reserved for one: the heritage of the righteous.

d. Law. something that has been or may be inherited by legal descent or succession. any property, especially land, that devolves by right of inheritance.

2. There are lots of websites where you can look up your heritage (i.e. Ancestry.com; 23 and me; genealogical society of Utah; My heritage; Family tree dna; Living DNA; etc).

B. Spiritual Heritage

1. Abraham is called “the Father of the faithful”(Gen. 15:5).

2. Abraham’s greatest test (sacrificing Isaac) Gen. 22:1-18.

Vs. 1 God called to Abraham and he answered.

Vs. 2 God asks him to sacrifice his son.

Vs. 3-6 He sets out to do what God asks of him.

Vs. 7 Isaac says you have all the supplies but, “Where is the lamb for the offering?”

Vs. 8 He said God will provide the lamb and then “the two of them went together.”

Vs. 9-10 Abraham builds the altar, binds his son and raises his hand to sacrifice him.

Vs. 11-13 An Angel stops him and says it was a test, then God provided a sacrifice.

Vs. 14-18 God confirms His blessing on Abraham.

C. What does this story tell us about being a good father?

Vs. 1 Abraham recognized God’s voice and was quick to answer. Have you trained your ear to hear God’s voice? Have you conveyed that to your children?

Vs. 2 It says Abraham loved his son Isaac. Think about how long he waited for that promised son to be born.

Vs. 3-6 He sets out without hesitation to do what God asks of him. He must have trusted God very much to do this. Heb. 11:17-19 gives us some insight into Abraham’s thinking. Who was more important to Abraham, Isaac or God? Is this how it is supposed to be? (Mt. 10:37).

Vs. 8 Abraham’s answer to his son shows that he had faith in God even in stressful times. The last part of the verse says they walked together. How important is it to walk together with your children?

Vs. 9-10 It does not say that Isaac struggled with his father. This says a lot about Isaac’s training and that he must have really trusted his father.

Vs. 11-13 Most of the time we are not aware that we are passing through a test when we are going through difficulties. It is during those times that our characters and priorities are revealed, tested, and strengthened. How can we pass that on to our children?

Vs. 14-18 God blessings will be confirmed upon us and our children IF we run our lives by

policies and principles from His word, even when it is difficult to see our way through. This is the spiritual heritage that God wants us to pass on to our children.

D. Jn. 8:56-59 Jesus statement about Abraham

1. Was Abraham really glad for that experience? Jesus said he was.
2. What word does Jesus use to describe Abraham's experience? Rejoiced! Glad.
3. What did Abraham see? (Mt. 20:28; Gal. 3:6-9) The gospel.
4. How does this apply to us? (Gal. 3:29; Gen. 22:8; 1 Tim. 2:6).

E. Appeal to Fathers

1. Have you made mistakes as a father? Abraham did. He did not wait for God to fulfill his promise and he took Hagar as wife and cause a lot of problems in his own family and a lot of strife between nations for generations to come. And still he was blessed by God and called the father of the faithful.

2. What heritage have you left with your children? A strong work ethic? Worldly riches? A good career?

3. Are there some parts of your heritage that you wish were not passed down?

4. What age is it that you reach when you cease being a father?

5. God is still calling you, even now, as spiritual leader of your family. Teach them to listen to that still small voice that will guide them through the difficult times (Isa. 30:21; I Ki. 19:11-12).