**Genesis 21:22-34**

***It’s What Eats You***

Introduction

1. What’s eating you this morning? What can we do about it?

2. In Genesis 21:22-34 Abraham makes a peace covenant with Abimelech, the Philestine, but something was eating Abraham.

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**I. THE TESTIMONY 21:22**

 ***A. The Providence of God***

**1. The Pass** *And it came to pass* We tend to forget that God is in control and the world

 doesn’t revolve around us.

 **2. The Period** *At that time* We are time oriented. That moment has been designed by

 God.

 **3. The People** *That Abimelech and Phicol, the chief captain…*Abimelech (introduced

 in chapter) was a Philistine with moral fiber. Phicol means *mouth of all*..He may

 have been the official spokesman for his people. Watch for the people God permits to

 come into your life. *If there is a creation, there is a Creator. If there is a Creator,*

 *there is a* *God. If there is a God, there are no accidents. If there are no accidents,*

 *then everything I experience is evidence that there is a God, that I might get to know*

 *Him better.*

***B. The Provision from God***

*God is with you in all that you do*…In chapter 20 God gave him so much in terms of

 physical prosperity. He was already wealthy. Isaac is born in his and Sarah’s old age.

 He was a prosperous man! Out of the ordinary hum drum of life, people can see God at

 work. What about you? God has been so good. Look at what God has done. Look at

 what you have. *Every good and perfect gift comes from the Father.* **Be careful,**

 **something might eat you in the midst of God’s goodness and prosperity. We get**

 **caught up in the well; we miss what God has done and is doing!**

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**II. THE TREATY 21:23, 24**

1. ***Make Peace 23***

Abimelech wanted to make an alliance with this powerful chieftain. He had reason! Abraham had been a liar and a coward. Perhaps Abimelech became afraid. It is awesome to know a prophet of God who can pray. This is a man that God had warned about Sodom and Gomorrah and the unusual birth of Isaac. ***Let’s make peace!***

1. ***Peace Made 24***
2. The most important words from Abraham: *I will swear…I will do it!* ***Peace and rest…whatever it takes!***
3. Something can eat you in a close relationship. Begin reading chapter 20. ***The only cure for bitterness ultimately is forgiveness!***
4. Something can eat you when you’ve put a lot into a relationship (20:14). *“I will do it.”* This was peace at any cost. **Most are not willing to pay the price…pride!!**

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**III. THE TRAGEDY 21:25, 26**

1. ***The Source of Agitation*** *But Abraham complained because of a well of water…..*
2. That’s it???! Abimelech had given him so much. Then some of his band had taken a well. Something had been eating at Abraham for some time. Wells were important in that part of the world. No doubt he had other wells, but it was the principle of the thing.
3. The wrong seemed BIG. Be willing to go to the person. We so often want to state our case and cause to everyone. If so, you are not trying to solve the problem. You are attacking the person who wronged you.
4. ***The Solution to Agitation 26*** *Abimelech: I didn’t know.*
5. It is easy to assume. Get the whole story.
6. This is BIG in the eyes of the beholder. Deal with the problem! Name it! State it!Bring it to light! Admit whatever wrong for which you are guilty.

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**IV. THE TREATMENT 21:26-34**

1. ***Restoration 26***
2. The communication has broken down. It must be restored.
3. This was BIG to Abraham, but unknown to Abimelech. He was getting blamed for what someone else had done.
4. *He that is spiritual…go to the weaker brother.* When you feel the wall going up…go then. When a wall has gone up…tear it down…if possible! Some won’t let a wall come down. As you go, the weight of forgiveness falls on them.
5. ***Restitution 27-30***

Wrongs are made right.

1. The sheep and oxen in v. 27 were for a covenant sacrifice. (15:9-14)
2. The 7 ewe lambs of v. 28 were a gift with no strings attached. That is why Abimelech in v. 29 says, *“What means these?”* This was beyond customary.
3. *They serve as a witness…*
4. ***Sacrifice…I die!*** This lead us to the cross and forgiveness. *Forgive one another as God for Christ’s sake has forgiven you.* **Self must die, so that God can receive the glory!**
5. ***Gift…***do something positive for the person you are extending forgiveness:

***\****Pray that God would bless them.

***\****Take them something they would want as a gift…no strings.

***\****Put yourself out on their behalf.

\*See them as Christ sees them.

\***Let It Go!**

 ***C. Reconciliation 31, 32***

**1.** *Beersheba “the well of seven”* meaning the seven ewe lambs given in v. 28 as a

 reminder: *I have dug this well.* The gifts serve as a witness.

 **2.** That is how Beersheba got its name. They made a covenant.

\*In spite of past performance…don’t bring it up!

\*What if it happens again? **That’s God’s business.** Abraham took another chance on being hurt, but he did what he could.

\***Forgive**…how many times? 7x7…no 70x70…(Matt. 18:21-22) **Let it go!**

**No one is so important to steal my joy or eat me up on the inside!!**

 ***D. Revival 33, 34*** God must be brought into every area of my life.

**1. A Reminder** *Planted a tree*…we need to be reminded constantly of God’s

 goodness and grace.

 **2. A Revelation** He has a new view of God. *El Elyon* the possessor of heaven and

 earth was introduced in (14:22) *El Shaddai (17:1)* and here *El Olam* the

 *Everlasting God*. This emphasizes God’s unchangeableness and is connected with

 His inexhaustible strength. He is the God over everlasting things.

 **3. A Rest** It worked! He *sojourned in a country that was not his own.* What do we

 really own? What is really ours? Everything is a loan.

**What’s eating you this morning?**

**Name It! Confront It! Deal With It! Let It Go!**

**Get your eyes on the God of eternity and Rest!**