Genesis – Family: "Contention With Out & In"
Genesis 26:18-35

May 17th, 2020   **Pastor Jim Laxson**

Oft' times, we equate God's blessing solely with good . . . prosperity . . . abundance . . . peace . . . joy . . . and more, when His greatest blessing in truth is His ever faithful presence amidst the struggles and labor of life. When we call out to Him, He is there; when we seek Him, He lets us find Him; when we try to hide . . . **"behold Thou art there."** [Ps. 139:7-12] *He made us demonstrate His to know Him! He uses* <u>all</u> *reveal Himself . . .*

Context: As his father 95 yr. previous, Abraham, Isaac has sojourned to the Gerar region due to a famine in his land. As his father, fear and lack of trust in his **Lord** *resulted in a lie putting his wife in jeopardy and God's Name in disgrace. As with his father, Abimelech, ruler of the Philistines, confronts Isaac and sends him out from their presence . . .*

Genesis 26:17
  "the valley of Gerar"

Vs.18-21   In the desert, _____ ___ _____!
  Re-dug the wells >

  A well with flowing water is _____ life!
    Esek -

    Sitnah -

V.22   Rehoboth -

    "At last the **Lord** has made room for us, and we
       shall be fruitful in the land."

Vs.23-25   Beersheba – [see 21:35]

  "And the **Lord** appeared to him the same night and said . . ."

Isaac responds by _____ and _____;
   he _____ and _____!

Vs.26-30   Abimelech comes

  Vs.30-31

  Vs.32-33

Vs.34-35

Chapter 26 begins and ends with a discouraging event. Isaac has not been the model of stability . . . but, alas, when the Israelites refer to Jehovah later, He is called the God of _____, _____ and _____. Even in Isaac's struggle, God does not reject him – but that does not mean difficulties, tragedies, pain and suffering , even death at the hands of one's enemies cannot or may not or will not happen. But how blessed is the man (and woman) that walks in His ways!

Homework: Look at Psalm 1:1-3
What are the qualities of the blessed man's journey?

When does the tree bear its fruit? WHEN is the season?

What part of this passage "caught your attention"?

Is God saying something to you? What is it?

How will you respond?