

ABRAHAM, The Friend of God

James 2:21-23

INTRODUCTION

- A. From our text a great compliment was given to Abraham. See also 2 CH 20:7; IS 41:8.
 - 1. "Friend, one attached to another by esteem, respect, and affection."
 - 2. Why was Abraham called "the friend of God?"
- B. Abraham was a descendant of Noah and the son of Terah (Gen. 11: 10-26).
 - 1. Promised to be the great progenitor of many nations (Gen. 17: 4).
 - 2. All nations are blessed through Abraham's seed, Jesus Christ (Gal. 3: 14, 16).
 - 3. Abraham is among the few privileged to have had special recognition with God (cp. Enoch and David, Gen. 5: 24; Acts 13: 22).

DISCUSSION

- I. ABRAHAM WAS A MAN OF GREAT FAITH. GE 12; 15:1-6.
 - A. Abram was seventy-five years of age when he departed out of Haran (Gen. 12: 1-4).
 - B. This was an act of great faith (Heb. 11: 8-10).
 - C. The realization of Abraham (name changed in Genesis 17: 5) being the father of many nations was contingent upon Isaac.
 - D. Yet when told to sacrifice Isaac, Abraham obeyed (Gen. 15: 1-6; chapter 22).
 - E. Abraham's faith is not just observed in his willingness to offer his promised son, but in the fact that he believed God was able "to raise him up" (Heb. 11: 17-19).
- II. ABRAHAM WAS A MAN OF IMPLICIT OBEDIENCE.
 - A. Great faith is not only trusting but also obedient. GE 12; 22. HE 11:8, 17.
 - B. A common and static characteristic of God pleasing faith is obedience (Consider the examples of such great men of faith as Abel, Noah, and Moses, Heb. 11: 4, 7, 24, 27, 28).
- III. ABRAHAM WAS A MAN OF IMMEDIACY AND PROMPTITUDE.
 - A. GE 12:4. MT 4:18-22; Acts 9:20; 10:33; 16:33.
 - B. Note how individuals with whom God has expressed his approval have not been lazy and people to "put off" matters. They responded immediately to the task at hand.
- IV. ABRAHAM WAS A MAN OF HOSPITALITY AND GENEROSITY.
 - A. GE 18:1-8. HE 13:2.
 - B. It is admitted that our culture in America is different in terms of extending and not abusing hospitality.
 - 1. Restaurants and motels have created a change.
 - 2. However, there remains ways and opportunities to extent hospitality.
- V. ABRAHAM WAS A MAN OF PEACE, EVEN WHEN IT REQUIRED SACRIFICE.
 - A. GE 13:5-12.
 - B. "Peace" is a running theme throughout the New Testament.
 - 1. 2 CO 13:11.
 - 2. IS 9:6, 7.
 - 3. RO 10:15; 14:7.
 - 4. MT 5:9.
 - 5. 1 CO 7:15.
- VI. ABRAHAM WAS A MAN WHO CONTROLLED HIS HOUSEHOLD.
 - A. GE 18:18, 19.
 - B. Headship is a mark of fidelity and is greatly desired (cp. Acts 10: 2).
 - C. A father today must control his household (EP 5: 22 - 6: 4, cp. TS 1: 6).
 - D. By teaching and setting the proper example, children have a lot better chance to grow up to themselves be God pleasing Christians.

CONCLUSION

- A. In closing, accent the matter of friendship and its requisites.
- B. There is the false doctrine of passivity of faith characteristic of denominationalism.