

## **THEME: MAKE GOD YOUR GOAL**

### **SERMON TITLE: WALK IN OBEDIENCE**

#### **TEXT: GEN 26:1-14, DEUT 28:1-15**

Obedience is a compliance with an order, request or submission to another's authority. It is also doing what is expected of one at the expected place and time.

Obeying (doing) God's word out of a true heart is better than any outward form of worship, service or personal sacrifice. People will be set on declining what is right for themselves, boldly rejecting the standard of truth that God clearly declares in his word (1 Sam 15:22) We must remember that prayer, worship, praise, spiritual gifts and any service to God is meaningless if not joined by obedience to him. True obedience is doing what God says is right.

From the above scriptures we learn that:

#### 1. God appeared to Isaac at his time of need.

- There was famine in the promised land and Isaac did not know what to do, so he chose to go to the philistines (enemy camp)
- Obeying God does not mean that we will never experience serious problems but that God is ever present for obedience attracts his presence.
- Once in Gera, God appeared to him with the message "Do not go down in Egypt dwell in the land of which I will tell you move around in this land and I will be with you and I will bless you" (2-5)
- God promised to bless him and his generation abundantly only if he obeyed.
- Our God is all knowing such that he knew what Isaac was planning to do – to go to Egypt in search of food.
- May the Lord intervene in our situation before we make that decision.
- At his time of need, the Lord appeared to offer a solution. God reminded him how he loved his father Abraham, because of his obedience and that if he (Isaac) did the same, God would bless him as well.
- Isaac by faith obeyed the Lord and stayed in Gera although there wasn't enough food either.
- May we choose to obey the Lord other than what looks convenient to us.

#### 2. Isaac was fruitful in that land.

- God gave him a long-term solution for food shortage by guiding him to farm in that land.
- He sowed and in a year's time he harvested a hundred fold.
- God continued to bless him until he became so fruitful (wealthy) such that the Philistines envied him. Him who came as a beggar with nothing is now wealthy (obedience attracts God's favor)
- God is causing a massive increase in the lives of all those who will desire to obey what he says – where he directs them and who remain in him.
- We only need a word from the Lord and our lives will never be the same again.

- God set before the Israelites the blessings and curses “If you obey, I will bless you...If you disobey all the curses will follow you” (Deut 28:16)
- This year God is willing to cause a mighty increase, multiplication of fruitfulness to our lives.

#### NOTICES

1. Prayers and fasting starts on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024
2. Departmental Sunday is next week. Plan to attend