

ISAAC: 'A WILLINGNESS OF FAITH' Hebrews 11:20

Hebrews 11:20 "By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future"

THE COMPARISONS

1. Chronology: Isaac lived longer than either his father or his son.
2. Canaan: Isaac stayed within a **100-mile radius** of his birthplace.
3. Conjugal: Isaac had only one wife and twin sons.
4. Character: Isaac was very quiet, subdued, and passive.
5. Construction: It's recorded that Isaac built only one altar.
6. Common: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had the same besetting sin: **lying**.
7. Conclusion: "*Run your own race, kid*"

THE CHALLENGES

1. Despising: Isaac was persecuted by his older brother, Ishmael.
2. Death: At the same age that Jesus died, Isaac also faced death.
3. Desolation: When his mother, Sarah, died, Isaac could not be consoled.
4. Denial: After marriage, for 20 years, Rebekah, his wife, was barren.
5. Distress: The next trial was the death of his father.
6. Dearth: Like his father he was confronted with a terrible famine.

7. Discouragement: Great grief when his eldest son, Esau, married two idolatrous wives.
8. Dimness: Isaac began to go blind.
9. Deceit: Jacob, Isaac's second-born, helped by his mother, deceived him.
10. Depletion: Jacob had to flee from Esau, Ishmael died, then Rebekah died, then Esau left him & Isaac was **totally alone**.

THE CHARACTER

Four Areas Isaac Was Willing:

Willing to **Die**: (Gen. 22:6-10:)

Willing to **Defer**: Isaac was willing to submit to his father's will about a bride.

Willing to **Dedicate**: "*By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future.*" When you look at those two boys at the time of the blessing there was nothing to bless, but Isaac was willing.

Willing to **Dig**: Seven times Scripture records Isaac built new wells when the enemy destroyed them.

THE COMMITMENT

Isaac Committed Himself to Three Essentials of Life:

Built an altar: A new level of spiritual growth must be linked with an outward commitment of life.

Pitched his tent: Isaac was wealthy. He didn't have to live in a tent, but he was not rooted in material things.

Dug another well: Symbolic of the satisfaction of his deeper thirst.