



Series: Genesis

Passage: Genesis 23

Title: A Faithful Pilgrimage

Speaker: Pastor JC Cooper, 10/30/2022

Discussion Starter – Describe in your own words what it means to be a faithful pilgrim in the world we live in today.

Genesis 23: 1-7: Abraham demonstrates faith-like hope and humility

- What do we observe about Abraham that enabled him to experience the loss of Sarah but still live with faith-like hope?
- What is the hope that we as believers have that unbelievers of this world don't have? How is this hope that we should have as believers described in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14?
- What are some of the things that can get in the way of us experiencing this hope?
- Sarah's death at 127 years was probably somewhat expected because of her age. It can be much more difficult to deal with a tragic event such as a loss of a child or a health issue at an unexpected or much younger age. How are we to come along side of someone to provide comfort when something tragic like this happens to them? Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-5, Romans 8:28
- What do you see in the way God has grown Abraham by the way he manages and negotiates getting a burial site for Sarah? Read Hebrews 11:9-10. What evidence do we see in the life of Abraham's to indicate he was faithfully awaiting his eternal home?
- Even though we are "pilgrims" of this world we still have the responsibility of planning for our time here. What do we learn from the passage about planning or lack of planning? If you are married, do you have a succession plan? What other things are important to plan for in this life?

Genesis 23: 8-20: Obedience to God's Word in order to draw others to God

- Why do the sons of Heth recognize Abraham as a "prince among us"? What are some of the things neighbors, coworkers and friends see in you that show the hand of God on your life? What is God prompting you to do to reach out to those around you?
- What do you think was behind the motivation of paying the full price for the burial place when it was common practice in that culture to negotiate?
- Why is it important to not take something just because it is free, allowed, or legal? What are some examples of things we as believers should not partake in? Why or why not? Read Psalm 37:21. How can we negotiate in this world and still honor God?
- How has God spoken to you about how you are to use your worldly resources to invest in eternal relationships?
- What advantages do you see in applying each of the 4 biblical business principles mentioned in the message? What challenges do we face that get in the way of applying each of these principles?
- What pitfalls have you experienced by not applying one or more of these principles?