

ONE in the word

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me (Jesus).” (John 5:39)

January 14 - Reflection

DEAR WOMAN OF GOD'S AMAZING GRACE:

In the past five days of pursuit we saw some good changes when names were changed to reflect a new relationship with God (Genesis 17:5, 15); when God changed the sacrifice of Isaac to the substitution of the Ram (Genesis 22:12-13); when God allowed births (Genesis 16:15; 19:37-38; 21:3; 25:24-26 and more); and brought about marriages (Genesis 24:67; 29:25,29). These were what we consider all good changes. But then there were also some of what we consider not-so-good changes as death came to some, physically (Genesis 19:26; Genesis 23:2; 25:8) while spiritually a type of death came to others, such as when Isaac was offered on the altar of sacrifice (Genesis 22:9) and when Esau sold his birthright (Genesis 25:34).

Change happens in our lives sometimes by our own choosing but other times it is out of our control. We often see change as bad but it is not always so; sometimes, indeed many times, change is good. How we accept change will oftentimes affect the end result of the change.

Malachi 3:6 states, “...I am the LORD, I change not...” which would indicate that any change orchestrated by God is always intended to have a good result (whether we ever see it or not) as **we** are the ones who must change, and indeed do change, one way or another. However, God leaves the result of the change in us up to us by the way we accept the change He is allowing or working in or around us. The result or consequences are determined by whether we choose to accept the change(s) willingly or receive it rebelliously.

Sarai brought about a change when she influenced her husband to have a child with someone else rather than wait upon God to bring about the “change.” Isaac, on the other hand, waited on God to bring to him his bride which resulted in his “change” from single-hood. By just these two comparisons we can easily see that the result of the change will oftentimes (if not always) be determined by who is instigating the change; by whose idea the change was originated, and then by who brings about the change. It will always be best for us to wait and allow God to bring about change rather than us working to bring it about.

In our 365 days in pursuit of a more intimate relationship with Christ, we must desire to be changed from who we are to who He desires us to be. Our sovereign God is the only one who knows what is needed in our lives to bring about that change, whether it is a death (as Jesus had to die in order to bring new life) or a birth. Though with change sadness and grief may also

come, we would do well to embrace change and allow God to work as He knows best always remembering Isaiah 40:31, *“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”*

So, today, reflect on the changes that we read this past week and consider God’s working through each, even when it was man bringing about the change. Then reflect on changes in your own life to realize who was at work bringing about the change. When it was out of your control, you had no say in the matter, realize it was God’s sovereign and perhaps unseen hand at work to accomplish His will. When the change was instigated by you, has the result been revealed or is it yet to be revealed? Regardless, confess your fault to God and then trust Him with the result as you wait on Him to have His way in you as you pursue Christ.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION:

Genesis 17:3 *“And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying,”*

Genesis 19:26 *“But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.”*

Genesis 22:8 *“And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.”*

Genesis 25:28 *“And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob.”*

Genesis 28:15 *“And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.”*