

WHY ABRAHAM WAS CALLED THE FRIEND OF GOD

by Dick Blackford

INTRODUCTION:

1. God, through His prophet Isaiah, said Abraham was His friend, Isa.41:8. The New Testament says this scripture was fulfilled, James 2:23. This passage also tells why Abraham had such a close relationship with his Father—He "believed God."
2. Abraham's faith and love for Jehovah can be seen in his obedience to God for it caused him to:

I. LEAVE.

A. He Left His Home and Country.

1. Not many things are more difficult than this, yet Abraham left his country not knowing if he would ever return. No indication that he ever did.
2. Some leave today but know they will be back in two years
Homesickness is the worst kind.
3. Giving up home and country is most unpleasant thought to most living in U.S. today.

B. Left His Kinfolk.

1. With most of us it would not be quite as difficult to leave home and country if we could take our relatives with us.
2. But Abraham left and there is no indication at all in Scripture that he ever saw those kinfolk again that he left behind, Matt.10:34-37.

C. Left His Father's House.

1. Nothing more pleasant than a family reunion and scarcely anything more sad than having to say "Goodbye" to loved ones.
2. But Abraham departed from his father's house. He left the old home place never to return.

D. He Did Not Know Where He Was Going, Gen.12:1; Heb.11:8; Acts 7:2-6.

1. It would ease one's anxieties a little if he had to leave home and kin folk but knew where he would be going and what he would be doing. Abraham did not.
2. Most would hate the thought of leaving the U.S. right now without knowing where they would be going.
3. It might be argued that Abraham was promised some land as an incentive to go, Acts 7:4,5.

Note Adam Clarke's comment: *Both Abraham and Jacob had small parcels of land in Canaan; but they had them by PURCHASE, not by God's gift; for as Abraham was obliged to buy a burying place in Canaan (Gen.23) it is obvious he had no inheritance there.*

E. It Was Things Like These That Convinced God That Abraham Was Truly His Friend, Matt.19:29.

TRANSITION: But this, by far, was not all that convinced Jehovah. For Abraham's faith also caused him to:

II. GIVE.

A. He Gave Tithes To Melchizedek, The High Priest Of God, Gen.14:18-20; Heb.7:1,2.

1. Abraham gave a "tenth part of all." How does that compare with your giving?
2. Abraham's humility is indicated by his recognition of Melchizedek, though he had just

- returned from battle and a victory over other kings,
- B. He Gave Lot Choice Of The Land, Gen.13:8-10.
1. It was unnecessary but it shows Abraham was faithful in his relationship with his family.
 2. It would have been a good chance to start a family feud, but he showed kindness instead.
- C. He Gave Hospitality To Strangers, Gen.18:1-5.
1. He said he would fetch water to wash their feet and a morsel of bread.
 2. Understatement shows his modesty. He killed a tender young calf and provided milk, butter, and cakes. He was faithful in his relationship with his fellowman.
- D. Gave A Life Of Sojourning, Heb.11:9.
1. Living somewhere temporarily, moving from place to place, is not pleasant.
 2. This was done "in a land not his own"—in tents.
- E. Gave His Only Son, Gen.22:1-12; Heb.11:17-19.
1. We have not come across an "easy" thing that Abraham did.
 2. This was probably hardest of all. Yet some of us let weather hinder us from assembling.
 3. How would your faith stand?, Matt.10:37. Would you renounce your family?
- F. Gave Spiritual Training To His Children, Gen.18:17-19.
1. Can this be said of you? Does the Lord have such confidence in you as He did Abraham?

CONCLUSION:

1. Abraham, like all men, met death. But he met it without reluctance - full of days and satisfied with life. "The man whose mighty soul is not immersed in dubious whirl of secular concerns, His final hour ne'er takes him by surprise, But FULL OF LIFE, he stands prepared to die." - Lucretius.
2. This world is not our home, Gen.25:7-10. Abraham believed God. He had a great and strong faith, Rom.4:19-21; Gal.3:6,7,29; Heb.11:8-13; 11:17-19. From these scriptures we can see that Abraham was faithful in his relationship to God, family, and fellowman, Matt.22:37-39. Abraham was looking for something, Heb.11:10; Jn.8:56. Have you found it? How great is your faith?
3. Would you LEAVE all that you hold dear to serve God? Would you GIVE freely of all you possess? Could you be called a "friend of God?" This is required, Lk.9:23.