

11.28.21

Paternity Test II

John 8:39-51



1. Pastor pointed out 6 of Christ's heart-searching "ifs" found in John 8:31-59. He frames these "ifs" as 6 tests of paternity for knowing whether God is truly your Father and whether you have a vibrant, personal relationship with Him through Christ's finished work on the cross. The 6 "ifs" are listed below. Read each of these with an eye to self-examination and then write down/share any insights:
 - IF of discipleship John 8:31,32
 - IF of freedom John 8:36
 - IF of family likeness John 8:39
 - IF of first love John 8:42
 - IF of belief John 8:46
 - IF of assurance/hope John 8:51

2. This question was part of last week's Diving Deeper questions, but Pastor did not get to this portion of the sermon last week and most Growth Groups did not meet this week because of Thanksgiving. Let's study what made Abraham such an important person in Scripture!
 - Look closely at Genesis 12:1-3 and write down the steps of faith God was asking Abraham to take:
 - What promises did God make to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3 (called the Abrahamic Covenant)?
 - How did Abraham respond to the promises of God (Genesis 12:4)?
 - Notice God told Abraham to go to a land He would "show you" (Genesis 12:1) and that Abraham simply obeyed "so Abraham went" (Genesis 12:4). When Abram first took off, did he know where he was going according to these couple of verses? (Look up Hebrews 11:8-12). What does that say about Abram's faith in God? Think through how this scenario might play out in your own life if God were to speak to you this evening and ask of you what He asked of Abraham? Share your thoughts, questions, and apprehensions:
 - What promise did God make to Abram in Genesis 15:1-5 and how did Abram respond in Genesis 15:6?
 - What does it mean that God "counted it to him as righteousness?" (Look up Romans 4:1-6; Galatians 3:6-14)
 - Pastor mentioned in his sermon that to do the deeds of Abraham (John 8:39) meant what?
 - Abraham gets several mentions in the "Hall of Faith" of Hebrews 11. Read Hebrews 11:8-12, 17-19 concerning Abraham and write down the principles/character qualities that God would want you to emulate:
 - Staying in Hebrews 11, meditate upon 11:1-3, 6, 13-16. What is God asking of the believers in the Lakeside family as we come into the end of 2021 and start afresh in 2022?

Connection Card Next Steps: Memorize John 8:44

Oh God my Father, I will share my great love for you and your Son's love for me with my children/grandchildren this holiday season by sharing my salvation testimony.

Oh God my Father, I long to trust you as Abraham did so please give me the faith to trust you completely today for the current situation you allowed in my life.