

Every Day with Jesus
Our Saving God
Genesis 22:1-13

“Perhaps one of the most significant ways in which Jesus is unlike anyone else who has ever lived is that he has the ability to forgive sins.”
--Selwyn Hughes

We see in our culture in general and in this generation in particular an increasing reliance on therapy and therapists to help us deal with the various issues and stresses of life. Advertisements for online therapy appear in every form of media, so much so, that one might wonder if it is a response to demand or are they trying to create demand. Either way, talking to someone about a particular issue, addiction, problem, or sin can be helpful. It can help absolve us of shame and stigma associated with our past that works its way into how we function in the present. But no amount of therapy can rid us of actual guilt. Only in Jesus can we be freed from both shame and guilt, because only Jesus has the power to forgive our sin and redeem our repentance.

1. God provides a sacrificial substitute.
2. God promises a providential presence.
3. God produces a comprehensive conversion.

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, had their moments. There were events in their lives that glorified God, and there were times that proved disappointing. The same is true for us. But what we see throughout their stories is a God who is faithful to His promises. He provides a sacrificial substitute, promises a providential presence, and produces a comprehensive conversion so that we might experience the blessings for which we were originally created, and we might inhabit the place He is preparing for us. When we recognize and embrace the salvation that God freely offers through Christ, we are saved and transformed into something new. We realize that there really is a new name written down glory.

Reflection

In order for Jacob to be blessed, he had to first say his name. He had to come to the realization of who he was before God. Only after the confession of his name, could he then receive the blessing of something new. What are the things in your life that are keeping you from experiencing the blessings of God? What aspects of your old life are keeping you from your new name in glory? If you are converted, take some time to consider how you are using your new name. How is God using your conversion for His glory?