

The Test of Relationships

Passing the Test, Part 2

1 Peter 4:12 - *Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.*

James 1:2-3 - *Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.*

Isaac's Five Wells

- First well: Someone judges you.

Genesis 26:14-16 - *He had so many flocks and herds and servants that the Philistines envied him. 15 So all the wells that his father's servants had dug in the time of his father Abraham, the Philistines stopped up, filling them with earth. 16 Then Abimelek said to Isaac, "Move away from us; you have become too powerful for us."*

- Second well: Their judgment bothers them every time they are around you.

Genesis 26:17-20 - *So Isaac moved away from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar, where he settled. 18 Isaac reopened the wells that had been dug in the time of his father Abraham, which the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died, and he gave them the same names his father had given them. 19 Isaac's servants dug in the valley and discovered a well of fresh water there. 20 But the herders of Gerar quarreled with those of Isaac and said, "The water is ours!" So he named the well Esek, because they disputed with him.*

Esek (aye'-sic): contention, dispute, lawsuit, arguments

- Third well: They accuse you.

Genesis 26:21 - *Then they dug another well, but they quarreled over that one also; so he named it Sitnah.*

Sitnah (sit-nah'): accusation, strife

- Fourth well: You are uncontested.

Genesis 26:22 - *He moved on from there and dug another well, and no one quarreled over it. He named it Rehoboth, saying, "Now the LORD has given us room and we will flourish in the land."*

- Fifth well: You are restored.

Genesis 26:23, 25-33 - *From there he went up to Beersheba. ... 25 Isaac built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD. There he pitched his tent, and there his servants dug a well. 26 Meanwhile, Abimelek had come to him from Gerar, with Ahuzzath his personal adviser and Phicol the commander of his forces. 27 Isaac asked them, "Why have you come to me, since you were hostile to me and sent me away?" 28 They answered, "We saw clearly that the LORD was with you; so we said, 'There ought to be a sworn agreement between us'--between us and you. Let us make a treaty with you 29 that you will do us no harm, just as we did not harm you but always treated you well and sent you away peacefully. And now you are blessed by the LORD." 30 Isaac then made a feast for them, and they ate and drank. 31 Early the next morning the men swore an oath to each other. Then Isaac sent them on their way, and they went away peacefully. 32 That day Isaac's servants came and told him about the well they had dug. They said, "We've found water!" 33 He called it Shibah, and to this day the name of the town has been Beersheba.*

Sheba (shiv-ah'): seven, oath