

# Seeing God's Fingerprints

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Scripture Reading: **Genesis 1:1-2**

Introduction:

- In our scripture reading this morning we read of the beginning of creation.
  - It states that “the Spirit of God was over the waters”
  - Then the rest of that chapter God put His fingerprints on His creation
  
- All of us know what a fingerprint is...
  - All of us know that we all have them...right?
  - And all of us know that fingerprints are distinctive...right?
    - Fingerprints are so distinctive and so unique that you and I can found and identified by our fingerprints
    - If our fingerprints are all over it...It's our work
  
- Allow your mind to take you back to Genesis and the creation account
  - It's undeniable that we are able to see clearly God's fingerprints
    - Can't you still see them today?
    - The way to see God's fingerprints is to learn to correctly identify God's work in your life
  - We learn to see God's finger prints by looking at past experiences and seeing how God was at work in us
    - It's by seeing God's fingerprints in His past work in our lives that gives us courage to place our present and future in His hands.

## DISCUSSION

### I. **GOD DIRECTED ABRAHAM AND OFFER HIM AS A SACRIFICE -GENESIS 22**

- A. Abraham got up early the next morning and made preparation to sacrifice his son quickly
  - a. This was the son God had promised him
  - b. This was his son that he deeply loved

- c. But God had never steered him wrong—**EVER**
- B. As he neared the site of the sacrifice...
- a. He told the young servants with him to stay behind so they wouldn't interfere with the task at hand
  - b. It took three days to get to the place God had specified
    - i. Just a side bar here.
    - ii. Three days is a long time to knowingly take your only son that you love to his death
  - c. And so the two arrived at the God designated place
- C. At the place designated by God...
- a. Abraham built the altar
  - b. He placed Isaac on it
  - c. Raised the instrument to strike his son
  - d. And church...
    - i. Have no doubt in your heads that Abraham would not have gone through with it
    - ii. He fully trusted in God
    - iii. And yes to that point
    - iv. He was unwilling to defy His creator
    - v. But an angel stopped him
- D. The angel said, "I know you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."
- a. Why was Abraham so ready and willing to quickly sacrifice his son that he waited 25 years to be born?
    - i. He could look back from the time he was 75 years old and see God's fingerprints all over his life
    - ii. He could see God's fingerprints during those 25 years that he waited for God to give him Isaac
    - iii. He looked back and saw how God repeatedly did the impossible in his life
    - iv. Because he saw God's fingerprints on his past
      - 1. Church—He didn't hesitate to entrust his present to the hands of God

E. If there was a teenager that experienced the best and worst of life—It was Joseph  
(Genesis 37)

- a. Of Jacob's 12 sons—He was the favorite
  - i. He was given the best the world had to offer at that time
  - ii. But his brothers hated him
  - iii. They hated him so much that:
    - 1. They captured him in the wilderness
    - 2. And sold him as a slave to the Midianites
    - 3. Put blood from an animal on his coat and told Jacob he was dead
  - iv. As a slave he grew he grew up fast and became honorable, trustworthy, and a diligent laborer.

**1. Genesis 39:1-6 READ**

- a. He refuse sexual advances of his owner's wife
- b. She was so angered by his rejection that she accused him of rape
- c. As a result, he was imprisoned in the royal prison
- v. In prison, he was a model prisoner and was appointed as type of trustee
  - 1. He was placed in charge of all the prisoner's and was not even supervised
  - 2. He helped the kings cup bearer , who was also in prison,
    - a. All he asked for was to be remembered when the cup bearer was released
    - b. He was promptly forgotten about...
- vi. Opportunity came for Joseph to interpret the dreams of the king and he later became the 2<sup>nd</sup> most powerful man in the Egyptian nation
  - 1. In that position...
    - a. He saved his father and brother's families life by keeping them from starving
    - b. He was a very powerful but still very godly man
  - 2. After Jacob died his brother feared vengeance form Joseph, but listen to his words in Genesis 50:20.
    - a. **Genesis 50:20**, "But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive."
- vii. You see friends...
  - 1. As Joseph looked back over his life
  - 2. He clearly saw God's fingerprints all over the place from the pit to the palace

## II. IT'S RELATIVELY EASY FOR CHRISTIANS TO LOOK IN THE DISTANT PAST AND SEE GOD'S FINGERPRINTS

- A. For example, you and I can look back at Jesus' betrayal, trials, and crucifixion and clearly see God's fingerprints
  - a. God's fingerprints at the crucifixion are so obvious to us
    - i. God was not only at work—**HE WAS DOING HIS BEST WORK YET!**
    - ii. We look at the cross and see God's fingerprints in...
      1. Forgiveness
      2. Redemption
      3. Justification
      4. Mercy
      5. Love
      6. Compassion
      7. Kindness
  - b. We owe every spiritual blessing we have to God's work in the cross of Jesus
  - c. Every Sunday morning we declare our faith in God's work through the cross by taking the Lord's supper
    - i. We consciously reflect on what Jesus did for us by dying on that cross
    - ii. We remind ourselves of what God did for us by letting Him die
  - d. But the believer's who watched Him die didn't see God's fingerprints
    - i. All they saw was an evil victory—Evil had won in their eyes
    - ii. They saw no divine plan—no divine purpose—no divine accomplishment
    - iii. It's all too common a thing to be unaware that God is at work when God is working
  
- B. Isn't that the way it usually works?
  - a. We look back at the arrogant, self-confident, take control Peter and see how God remolded His heart
    - i. We see how God remolded his attitude
    - ii. But Peter couldn't see that as it was happening
  - b. We look back to a murderer named Saul...
    - i. And we see how God rebuilt his heart and attitude
    - ii. But Paul couldn't see as it was happening

### III. I THINK BACK TO MY OWN LIFE AND SEEING GOD'S FINGERPRINTS

- A. There were times God was working in my life and I couldn't see them at the time, but now I'm able to look back and see them.
- a. I can see them in September of 2006 as I made my first call to Gary Watts
  - b. I can go back further in my mind
    - i. I can see them so clearly now the night of December 25, 1999
    - ii. I can see them so clearly on June 18, 2002; September 28, 2004, and December 16, 2008
    - iii. I can see them in 1985 when my grandmother introduced me to the Church
    - iv. I can see them so much better now than I could then...
- B. Can people see God's fingerprints in your life, in your heart, in your attitudes and emotions?
- a. Husbands—can your wife and children see them?
  - b. Wife—can your husband and wife see them?
  - c. Children—can your parents see them?
  - d. Christians—
    - i. Your friends
    - ii. Your co-workers
    - iii. Your boss
    - iv. Your fellow students
    - v. Your neighbors
    - vi. CAN THEY SEE GOD'S FINGERPRINTS IN YOUR LIFE?

#### CLOSING:

- There are places we despise seeing fingerprints
  - No one who wears glasses like to see them smudging their vision
  - We don't like them on windows, mirrors, glass of any kind
  - Let's face it...
    - There are many, many place we don't like fingerprints
  
- But there is one place I want to see them...and see them clearly
  - On my heart...
    - And I want them to be God's

- And I never want Him to stop molding and shaping and re-building my heart
  - B/c when I let God mold my heart...the rest of life follows
- The girls got some moon dough for Christmas...it's kinds like play dough, but is NEVER suppose to dry out(We'll see)
- But I want my heart and your heart to be soft pliable in God's hands
  - We should allow God to shape our thoughts...
    - Our feelings
    - Our emotions
    - Our attitudes
    - Our motives
    - Our outlooks
  - We should allow God to constantly touch our hearts
    - And each time He does...
      - I want Him to leave His fingerprints

#### **INVITATION:**

- Who's shaping your heart?
- God or satan?
    - If it's hard and unfeeling
    - If it's cold and judgmental
    - If it's lifeless and stiff
      - Then friend—
      - Satan is shaping your heart
      - And his cruel fingerprints are all over the place in your life
  - If your heart is soft and willing—
    - Kind and compassionate
    - Repentant and gracious
      - Then rejoice b/c you are allowing God to shape your heart
  - Who do you want to mold it?
    - Whose fingerprints do you want to be on your heart?
- Have you ever been baptized into Christ?
- Do you know what baptism is?
    - A person sees the handprints of God on the cross
    - That person decides, "I'm no longer going to live as I did"

- Baptism is the point where a person takes their life, their heart and gives it to God and says, “Here it is Father—mold me and make me Yours!”
- Christian—
  - Is there something this day that that has your vision blurred?
    - Are you fingerprints and the fingerprints of the world making it hard for you to see God’s fingerprints?
    - If so repent today.

.....Please come as we stand and sing.....