**Genesis 26:12-33**

The Philistines, usually enemies of God’s people, envied

* Worked hard to fill Abraham and Isaac’s Wells
* Why not dig your own?
* Jealousy, Envy, Covetousness - Ten Commandments
* So much energy wasted filling wells with dirt, like a robber planning an elaborate bank robbery or a detailed scheme to gain from others or a plot to take over a co-worker’s job. Envying what other people have. We need to be careful to not fall into this type of sin. This is a trap that Satan loves to use.

Water was precious

* Livestock flourish with it
* Why not work hard, dig your own wells; be like Isaac?
* Very hard to dig new wells by hand

Seek God and work hard; you will flourish

* These Philistines came to this realization
* They saw God blessed Isaac and they wanted to make a covenant and be at peace with his people (**Matthew 5:9, Romans 12:18-21, Hebrews 12:14, Psalm 34:14-16**).
* Isaac chose not to fight when asked to leave; even though God was with him.
* Isaac pursued peace even with his enemies. With God’s help he was able to obtain peace.

Today we have a lot of folks out to get even others; whether it is politically, financially, or in some other way. Isaac shows us an example of another way. Isaac moved many times in order to maintain peace. Do not waste your time wrecking your enemy’s wells or seeking revenge. Focus on doing what the Lord wants you to do, and He will bless you. Then you can make peace with your neighbor and sometimes it may lead them to the Lord! (**Matthew 5:11-12, 43-48, 7:12, 1 Timothy 2:1-4**).

We as Christian's should walk, talk, and think in a way that pleases God and shows others the way to flourish. Sometimes our example leads others to Christ (**Acts 16:25-34**). Paul and Silas did not seek revenge against those who put them in prison or those who kept them in prison. They simply focused on pleasing God and the jailer took notice. He and his family had their sins washed away in baptism, and became Christians as a result of that good example.

***Paul & Silas pursued peace. Isaac pursued peace. We Christians, as much is within our power, pursue peace!***

The real reason we Christians are blessed is because we have been forgiven of our sins and now have a Savior and Father who provide for us. As we follow God, we flourish. If you are not a Christian; I am sure you want to have a productive and rewarding life. Repent of your sins and be baptized. Then you can start living every day for the Lord as you journey towards Heaven!