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(Peter Lok) 駱沅祺  
[lokpeter@outlook.com](mailto:lokpeter@outlook.com)

## Daily Rice 2023 June 12

Dear God,

We come before you in humble prayer, acknowledging Your unchanging faithfulness. We recognize that even when we are weak and susceptible to temptation, Your patience and love for us remain steadfast. You do not punish us but extend Your grace and mercy.

Lord, we ask for Your guidance in cultivating obedience and trust in You. Help us to discern Your will and resist the lures of the enemy. Grant us the strength to walk in the path that You desire for us, following Your commands and living according to Your Word.

Please forgive our human weakness and the times we have succumbed to deception. Empower us to be honest and trustworthy in all our dealings. May Your Holy Spirit work within us, transforming our hearts and renewing our minds.

We are grateful for Your provision and blessings in our lives. Continue to pour out Your grace upon us, sustaining us in every aspect of our journey. May we recognize and appreciate the abundant blessings You bestow upon us each day.

In the precious name of Jesus, we pray,

Amen.

### Genesis Chapter 26

Genesis 26 begins by describing a famine in the land, similar to the one experienced by Abraham. In the midst of the famine, God appears to Isaac and instructs him not to go to Egypt but to dwell in the land He will show him. God reiterates the promises He made to Abraham, promising to bless Isaac and multiply his descendants.

Isaac obeys God's command and settles in Gerar. However, fearful that the people of Gerar might kill him to take his wife Rebekah, he introduces her as his sister. King Abimelech discovers their deception and confronts Isaac, warning his people not to harm them.

Isaac prospers in Gerar, and his wealth grows. The Philistines become envious and begin stopping up the wells that Abraham had dug. Isaac reopens these wells and gives them the same names his father had given them.

As Isaac continues to prosper, Abimelech asks him to move away because his presence has become too powerful. Isaac complies and settles in the Valley of Gerar. There, his servants dig wells, and Isaac names one of them Rehoboth, saying, "For now the Lord has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land."

Isaac then goes up to Beersheba, where God appears to him that night and reaffirms His covenant. Isaac builds an altar and worships the Lord.

Meanwhile, Abimelech, along with his commander and adviser, comes to Isaac seeking a covenant of peace. Isaac agrees, and they feast together, making an oath not to harm one another.

Important verses in Genesis 26:

Genesis 26:2-3: "The Lord appeared to Isaac and said, 'Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live. Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you.'"

Genesis 26:12-14: "Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year reaped a hundredfold because the Lord blessed him. The man became rich, and his wealth continued to grow until he became very wealthy. He had so many flocks and herds and servants that the Philistines envied him."

Genesis 26:24: "That night the Lord appeared to him and said, 'I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham.'"

Genesis 26:28-29: "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 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.'"

These verses highlight Isaac's obedience to God's command, God's faithfulness in fulfilling His promises, Isaac's prosperity, and the establishment of a covenant of peace between Isaac and Abimelech.

Reflection on Genesis 26:

Genesis 26 offers several important themes and lessons for reflection. Here are some key points to consider:

**God's faithfulness:** In this chapter, we see God's faithfulness to His promises. Despite the famine in the land, God appears to Isaac and reaffirms the covenant He made with Abraham. God's faithfulness extends through generations, and He keeps His word even in challenging circumstances.

**Obedience and trust:** Isaac demonstrates obedience by following God's command to dwell in the land despite the famine. His decision not to go to Egypt shows trust in God's guidance. This obedience leads to blessings and prosperity for Isaac. Reflecting on Isaac's trust and obedience can encourage us to seek God's guidance in our own lives and trust in His plans.

**Human weakness and deception:** Isaac's fear leads him to repeat the mistake of his father, Abraham, by presenting his wife, Rebekah, as his sister. This deception almost leads to trouble, but God intervenes and protects Isaac. This episode highlights the weakness and flawed nature of humanity, reminding us of the importance of honesty and trustworthiness.

**Conflict and resolution:** Isaac's increasing prosperity becomes a source of envy for the Philistines, who block the wells Abraham had dug. However, Isaac responds with patience and perseverance, reopening the wells and seeking peaceful resolutions. The covenant of peace between Isaac and Abimelech demonstrates the value of reconciliation and seeking harmony even in the face of opposition.

**God's provision and blessing:** Despite the challenges and opposition Isaac faces, God continues to bless him abundantly. Isaac's crops yield a hundredfold, and his flocks and wealth multiply. This serves as a reminder of God's provision and the importance of acknowledging and giving thanks for His blessings.

Overall, Genesis 26 teaches us about God's faithfulness, the significance of trust and obedience, the consequences of deception, the pursuit of peace, and God's provision and blessings in our lives. It invites us to reflect on our own obedience, honesty, and trust in God, and to seek reconciliation and peace in our relationships.