

Gen 26:12-33

**Theological Proposition/Focus:** Even when the going gets rough and taking a wrong action seems like the best approach, God can be trusted to keep his promises.

**Homiletical Proposition/Application:** When faced with opposition, choose to respond righteously trusting God to keep his promises.

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**Introduction:**

1. **Image:** Striking up a conversation when being forced to submit to extra security measures.
2. **Need:** When faced with opposition, we need to choose to respond righteously.
  - a. Frustrating Coworker, Unfair Sibling, Souse, Church Conflict
3. **Subject:** Responding well when conflict arises.
4. **Text:** In Gen. 26:12-33 we see how a righteous response to conflict resulted in blessing for Isaac.
5. **Preview:** Within this passage we will see a how Isaac deals with **Conflict**, but trusted in God's **Assurance**, and subsequently received significant **Blessing**.

**Body:**

- I. **Conflict:** Isaac showed restraint despite being treated wrongly (12-22).
  - a. God greatly blessed Isaac making him the envy of the land (12-15).
  - b. Isaac's wealth and power resulted in him being asked to leave (16-21).
  - c. **Personal Relevance:** Being quick tempered
  - d. Instead of demonstrating his power and making enemies, Isaac trustingly departs (22).
  - e. **MTR:** Our instincts often tell us to retaliate when treated wrongly but we need to train ourselves to trust God instead.
- II. **Assurance:** God assured Isaac of his promises and Isaac in turn responded in worship (23-25)
  - a. God provided Isaac with some much-needed reassurance (23-24).
  - b. Isaac responded to God's assurance in worship (25).
  - c. **MTR:** Even if we don't see the positive, we need to still worship God because he has promised to care for us.
- III. **Blessing:** Isaac's wise actions resulted in peace, respect, and further blessings (26-33).
  - a. Isaac's handling of the situation resulted in recognition by others that God was blessing him (26-29).
  - b. The result of others recognizing God's hand of blessing was peace (30-31).
  - c. God continued to provide blessing (32-33).
  - d. **Illustration:** Choosing not to have a Christian bumper sticker because you cannot trust your behavior.
  - e. **MTR:** We need to remember the privilege we have of representing Christ to the world.

**Conclusion:**

1. **Image:** The impact of Elisabeth Elliot and Rachel Saint on the Aucas
2. **Over Arching MTR:** Choose to respond righteously.