**Homeletical Outline: [Them and Us]**

**Exegetical Proposition:** The **manner** in which Isaac and Rebekah coped with the unpleasant and confusion circumstances of their lives on their own (without their parents) was to remain faithful to God—through obedience and asking for His intervention.

**Theological Proposition:** The **manner** in which we should cope with unpleasant and confusing circumstances in our lives is to remain faithful to God—being obedient and asking for His help.

**Sermon Purpose:** That my fellow PM104 students will live lives characteristic of those who recognize God’s sovereign activity in the circumstances of their lives.

**Homiletical Proposition:** Hold Fast to God in the unfulfilled areas of your life!

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. (Image) . . . A Storm is Coming…We must ”Hold Fast” like good sailors.

2. (Need) . . . To maintain our faith during difficult times

3. (Subject) . . . Hold Fast to God in the unfulfilled areas of our lives.

4. (Text) . . . Genesis 25:19-26 – Isaac and Rebekah’s struggle to have children.

5. (Preview) . . . 2 Situations: Isaac and Rebekah’s, and ours.

 3 Responses: Isaac and Rebekah’s, ours, and God’s.

**BODY:**

1. Their Situation: Will Isaac and Rebekah be faithful to God in their situation, as they face immense blessing in all but one area of their lives?
	1. The Backstory:
		1. Economic Status: Abraham gives Isaac everything & God blessed him (5,11)
		2. Life Status: Abraham dies, they are on their own (7-9)
		3. Ishmael’s blessing: 12 sons (12-16)
	2. A Specific Problem:
		1. Lack of Blessing in one area – no children for 20 years! (21)
		2. Ishmael is immensely blessed in the same area –12 sons (12-16)
		3. Unpleasant Circumstances – Rebekah’s pain in pregnancy (22)
		4. Not complete devastation—not a Job story. Not everyone is a Job, but everyone is an Isaac and Rebekah. This is a “rich people problem” not a poor person problem.
	3. The Dilemma: Will Isaac and Rebekah be faithful to God?
2. Our Situation: Will we, the next generation of leaders, be faithful to God?
	1. Economic Status: Economically Blessed/Rich and Academically Prepared
	2. Life Status: Soon to be on our own in ministry
	3. Our Problems: Rich People Problems
		1. In a Hurry to Accomplish Things – What will we do if God makes us wait 20 years?
		2. Jealous of others Achievements – Can we celebrate the achievements of others?
3. Their Response: Isaac and Rebekah sought the Lord, and waited for His timing for the descendants that had been promised to them.
	1. Submission to God’s Agenda – Isaac and Rebekah waited 20 years for their children
	2. Seeking Him for areas of hurt or confusion
		1. Isaac Prayed (21)
		2. Rebekah sought the Lord (22)
4. Our Response: We must be patient and allow God to unfold His plans in His timing.
	1. Submission to God’s Agenda – we must be patient & obedient. – Key Phrase: Patient Obedience
	2. Seeking Him for areas of hurt or confusion – we must communicate our faith and our hurt. Our God is a personal God…He walks through life WITH us. Key Phrase: Communicate Faith
5. God’s Response: God will reveal His plans in good time, and in hindsight, we will see His great goodness.
	1. He answers them with a double blessing – twins!
	2. He declares great things: Great plans for the children’s prosperity!
	3. Their experience confirms His sovereignty, plans, and goodness – and ours will too.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. (Review your structure) . . . Their situation was like ours.

 Our Response should be like theirs.

 God’s Response will confirm His sovereignty, plans, and goodness.

2. (Refresh your image) . . . The coming storms and the meaning of “Hold Fast”