

GENESIS 24:10-20, 26-28

LESSON: GOD'S CHOICE FOR ISAAC — August 4, 2019

HISTORY:

24:1–9 Abraham was an old man stricken in age and the Lord had blessed him in all things. It was the custom for a father to send a trusted servant or some other third party out to search for a suitable bride for his son. This is what Abraham did. He told his oldest servant (Eliezer) to put his hand under Abraham, his master's thigh, thereby, placing the servant under an oath. Abraham made him swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and earth to not choose a wife for his son among the daughters of the Canaanites, but, he is to go to Abraham's country and Abraham's own family (*the descendants of Shem, the pure Semitic stock*) to choose a wife for his son Isaac. Abraham's people would be those....

- Who believed in the true God of heaven and earth (Jehovah, Yahweh).
- Who would stand faithfully with Isaac in following God and His promises.
- Who would be one with Isaac in building a godly home and in passing along the great promises of God to their children and grandchildren.

Then the servant asked if the woman was not willing to return with him, that he might have to bring his son back to the country, but, Abraham does not want his son to go back to his homeland. Then Abraham began to explain: The Lord God of heaven had taken him from his father's house and from the land of his kindred. And He swore to him that He would give the Promised Land to his seed (descendants). Abraham assured the servant that God will send His angel ahead of him (the servant), and he will choose a wife for Abraham's son. And if the woman is not willing to follow, then Abraham releases him; frees him from the oath he has made with Abraham. But, never take Isaac back to the country that Abraham came from. So the servant put his hand under his master Abraham's thigh. Then he made a very serious promise. He promised that he would do what Abraham had ordered. The servant followed these steps in seeking the right person and God's Will in marriage: **Step one: follow God's will for marriage.**

LESSON: I. REQUESTING GOD'S GUIDANCE GENESIS 24:10-14

24:10 And the servant took ten camels of the camels of his master, and departed; for all the goods of his master were in his hand: and he arose, and went to Mesopotamia, unto the city of Nahor. The servant arose and took 10 of his master's camels and departed. All of his master's goods were in his hand going to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor. "Nahor" was the city/ town named after Abraham's brother. The servant was to be Isaac's representative: doing what Isaac might do, taking gifts, and going to the very place Isaac would be led to go. **Step two: (men) arise and go forth to seek a wife.**

24:11 And he made his camels to kneel down without the city by a well of water at the time of the evening, even the time that women go out to draw water. He came to a well of water by evening which was the time the women went out to draw water. This was the evening gathering spot for the women of the city. And the servant allowed his camels to kneel down and rest by the well.

24:12 And he said O Lord God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham. The servant began to pray to the God of Abraham, for he needed guidance, and to have kindness shown to his master Abraham. **Step three: pray and ask for God's guidance in seeking a wife.**

24:13 Behold, I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water:—The servant is in the right place at the right time. The women or daughters of the men of the city have come out to the well to draw water.

24:14 And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master. The servant is praying that the right one comes to him. He is very specific: the one who lets down her pitcher that he may be able to drink, and will say, *Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also*. He also goes on to pray that she will be the same one God appointed for Isaac, and that God will give him the knowledge to know that this was a sign that would leave no doubt that kindness was shown to his master.

The sign that he requested was not ordinary. The hospitality of the day required women at the well to offer water to weary travelers, yes, but not to their animals. The servant was simply asking God to show him a woman with an attitude of true service—someone who would go beyond the expected. In this case she would be drawing water for ten camels. And a thirsty camel could drink up to forty gallons of water.

II. RELISHING GOD'S RESPONSE GENESIS 24:15-20

24:15 And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder. Before the words had finished from his mouth, Rebekah came to him with her pitcher upon her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel (the youngest son of Nahor). Bethuel's mother was Milcah and she was the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother which makes Rebekah Abraham's niece. **Step four: act upon and follow through with your prayer.**

24:16 And the damsel was very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her: and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up. Rebekah was both beautiful and a virgin, and Abraham's niece. She was the one who went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up.

24:17 And the servant ran to meet her, and said, Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher. The servant saw Rebekah and ran to meet her, asking for a little water from her pitcher.

24:18 And she said, Drink, my lord: and she hasted, and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink. Rebekah quickly gave the servant water as she let down her pitcher in her hand. God had made everything fall into place.

24:19 And when she had done giving him drink, she said, I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking. When Rebekah gave him the water, she also said that she would draw the water for his camels until they all finished drinking. Rebekah did the unusual, for she freely offered to draw the water for the ten camels. This was the sign that the servant was looking for.

24:20 And she hasted, and emptied her pitcher into the trough, and ran again unto the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels. Rebekah would quickly empty the water from her pitcher into the trough for the camels to drink, and she would quickly run back to the well to draw more water for the camels.

NOT APART OF THE LESSON VERSES 21-25

24:21 And the man wondering at her held his peace, to wit whether the Lord had made his journey

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prosperous or not. The servant watched carefully holding his peace and wondering if the Lord had made his journey prosperous or not. Will Rebekah do exactly as he had prayed?

24:22 And it came to pass, as the camels had done drinking, that the man took a golden earring of half a shekel weight, and two bracelets for her hands of ten shekels weight of gold;— After the camels had their fill of drinking water. The servant gave Rebekah gifts: a golden earring of half a shekel weight, and two bracelets for her hands of ten shekels weight of gold. This gold earring was worn in the nose. And the bracelets are usually worn from the elbow to the wrist.

24:23 And said, Whose daughter art thou? tell me, I pray thee: is there room in thy father's house for us to lodge in?— The servant asked about Rebekah's family. He wanted to know whose daughter she was, and if her family provided lodging for travelers.

24:24 And she said unto him, I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, which she bare unto Nahor. Rebekah began to tell the servant that she was the daughter of Bethuel whose mother was Milcah, the wife of Nahor (Abraham's brother).

24:25 She said moreover unto him, We have both straw and provender enough, and room to lodge in. Rebekah also lets the servant know that they have plenty of room for him to lodge in their home.

III. REJOICING OVER GOD'S GOODNESS GENESIS 24:26-28

24:26 And the man bowed down his head, and worshipped the Lord. The servant knew that God had heard his prayer and he bowed down his head, and worshiped the Lord. **Step five: thank God for His kindness, faithfulness, and leadership step by step.**

24:27 And he said, Blessed be the Lord God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth: I being in the way, the Lord led me to the house of my master's brethren. The Lord had been kind and faithful, thereby proving Himself to Abraham by leading the servant to the very house of his master's brethren. This was the very place where the servant was most likely to find a young woman who would be a true believer.

24:28 And the damsel ran, and told them of her mother's house these things. Rebekah then ran to her mother's house to tell her all the things that had occurred at the well. **Step six: respond and accept the graciousness of the family.**

SUMMARY:

The servant arose and took 10 of his master's camels and departed. All of his master's goods were in his hand going to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor. "Nahor" was the city/ town named after Abraham's brother. The servant was to be Isaac's representative, doing what Isaac might do, taking gifts, and going to the very place Isaac would be led to go. He came to a well of water by evening which was the time the women went out to

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draw water. This was the evening gathering spot for the women of the city. And the servant allowed his camels to kneel down and rest by the well. The servant began to pray to the God of Abraham, for he needed guidance from God, and to have kindness shown to his master Abraham. The servant is in the right place at the right time. The women or daughters of the men of the city have come out to the well to draw water. The servant is praying that the right one comes to him. He is very specific: the one who lets down her pitcher that he may be able to drink, and will say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also. He also goes on to pray that she will be the same one God appointed for Isaac, and that God will give him the knowledge to know that this was a sign that would leave no doubt that kindness was shown to his master. (24:10-14).

Before the words had finished from his mouth, Rebekah came to him with her pitcher upon her shoulder. Bethuel's mother was Milcah and she was the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother which makes Rebekah Abraham's niece. Rebekah was both beautiful and a virgin. She was the one who went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up. The servant saw Rebekah and ran to meet her. He asked for a little water from her pitcher. Rebekah quickly gave the servant water as she let down her pitcher in her hand. God had made everything fall into place. When Rebekah gave him the water, she also said that she would draw the water for his camels until they all finished drinking. Rebekah did the unusual, for she freely offered to draw the water for the ten camels. This was the sign that the servant was looking for. Rebekah would quickly empty the water from her pitcher into the trough for the camels, and then quickly run back to the well to draw more water for the camels (24:15-20).

The servant knew that God had heard his prayer and he bowed down his head, and worshipped the Lord. The Lord had been kind and faithful, thereby proving Himself to Abraham by leading the servant to the very house of his master's brethren. This was the very place where the servant was most likely to find a young woman who would be a true believer. Rebekah ran to her mother's house to tell her all the things that had occurred at the well (24:26-28).

