

The
Man Wondering at
Her

Genesis 24:1 – 32



~ This will be another dramatic leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God; and we begin with a lovely, beautiful and romantic story as a bride is secured for Isaac. It is a blushing human story with a fantastic spiritual lesson. We are finally at a division break in Genesis. You will recall the first eleven chapters contained creation, man, sin and the promise to mankind of a Savior through Eve. After that we had four great individuals - and Isaac is the second of them. Abraham was the first. We will drop in on Jacob and Joseph before we trek on out of Genesis. We have seen two of three miraculous events in the life of Isaac so far. First, his birth. Second was surviving a child sacrifice by his dad. I'm sure that changed the dynamics of spiritual things around the dinner table. Third will be Isaac's bride.

There are two things we need to pay attention to in this chapter: First, the leading of the Spirit of God in the smallest of insignificant details in each of our lives. It is remarkable how the statement "God led them" appears repeatedly through here. It is reasonable to conclude that there were men and women who - even in that socially broken debauchery - were looking to God for guidance. We just don't seem to have enough of that today! Our modern churches are filled with men and women who merely do what is right in their own eyes and label it the "will of God." Second, notice the split-second decision made by Rebekah to accept the invitation from the servant to be Isaac's bride....

1 And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.

2 And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house that ruled over that entire he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh:

3 And I will make thee swear an oath unto the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell:

~ I personally don't think it's necessary to swear an oath on a Bible. If you have to touch the Bible to be compelled to tell the truth then it's highly doubtful you ever tell the truth at all. Well, affirming their own lies and insisting on their ignorance of it was the custom of Abraham's day. We need to make a note that an oath unto God – a vow - is being taken here. So, let me just say that I wouldn't suggest making an oath to God you cannot or do not intend to keep. God WILL require your vow of you, friends. I promise you that. The ends of not keeping even our most whimsically made vows are treacherous. I think the servant in this chapter is Eliezer, the head servant of Abraham in Abraham's home. Eliezer had a son and we have previously examined the implications of that. My Christian friends, if you have a son or daughter, you will do well to pray they marry not into the line of the Canaanites, spiritually speaking, of course! They're still in the land right now as I type this report and as you read it; and if that marriage takes place there will be disaster – every time. No exceptions....

4 But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.

5 And the servant said unto him, Peradventure the woman will not be willing to follow me unto this land: must I needs bring thy son again unto the land from whence thou camest?

6 And Abraham said unto him, Beware thou that thou bring not my son thither again.

7 The LORD God of heaven, which took me from my father's house, and from the land of my kindred, and which spake unto me, and that sware unto me, saying , Unto thy seed will I give this land; he shall send his angel before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence.

~ If the woman they choose won't come back with them, then Isaac was never, not under any circumstances, to go to her. This is a dire warning against rejecting Christ; and it is an example of our warning to not be unequally yoked with the world. The magnificent faith of Abraham is demonstrated again and again in this section of Scripture. This is where Abraham instructs his servant to trust and count on the leading of the Lord. See, friends, the leading of the Lord in our lives has to be a tangible, material, physical, leading. Faith is never a leap in the dark with God; faith is ALWAYS a leap into the light of the Lord Jesus Christ - based on the Word of God. It seems like everyone I speak to says, "...well, I believe God and this and that will come to pass." Well, - fine – because it's wonderful to believe God; but what promise do you have in writing from God that you believe?

Abraham always asked God for a written contract; and God gave him a written agreement. God also brought Isaac to this point and remember; God had promised Abraham he would be the father of many nations. You can be sure of one thing: God had a bride set aside for Isaac as they spoke. Abraham is resting here upon what God had said to him. So many people are just foolish about what they trust in and rest on today. Sometimes it's something they have made – but it's always unreasonable. Faith is never unreasonable because it ALWAYS rests on the truth and wisdom found only in the Word of God. Faith isn't "betting your life" that this or that will come to pass, friends. We don't gamble foolishly and recklessly with God because, if we do, then losing is a sure thing for us – every time....

8 And if the woman will not be willing to follow thee, then thou shalt be clear from this my oath: only bring not my son thither again.

~ Abraham says to his servant, "...if you don't find her then God has another way of working this out." All Abraham really knew is that God wanted him to act in faith; and faith is acting upon the Word of God. Faith rests upon something – Christ Jesus! God wants you to believe that – not just "believe," i.e. this pious non sense notion that God can be forced into doing something; or that He must do this or that because of something we have done. Friends, no one wants to be healed more than I have wanted to be healed for a long time. If you think you are in a position to force God to

heal someone I just happen to know you're entirely wrong. If you could do that then you could also raise the dead - and you can't raise the dead. Let's keep this real, okay? I don't know what God's will is on a day-to-day basis; but I think we should pray about it. We should ASK God to do the things we want done according to His will; and let God determine His will, too, by the way - not you! We need to understand that Abraham is not demanding anything of God, either; Abraham is merely resting in God's promises. Abraham's attitude is that this may be the way for his life - or this may not be the way. If this way doesn't work out then God has another way - a better way - and He is going to lead and bless - because God always kept His promise to Abraham....

9 And the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and swore to him concerning that matter.

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.

~ Abraham's servant takes TEN camels on this journey. There were other servants with him, too. So, here comes this desert nomadic train with all manner of luxury goods rolling across the desert. They have everything from spices to gold with them. I am sure they had clothes that were ready to be tailored for the women. I'm also sure these servants of Abraham's were extremely well dressed and presentable themselves. They're coming up near this little city now and the women are getting the water. These people were smart, obviously - the women should always draw the water! Women did a lot more work than we may think they did back in Biblical times. The women watered the stock and worked the fields and cooked and cleaned, too. The men would be out trading but men did very little servile work. Now, this servant also has to wait at the back of the line as it would have been uncustomary for them to water the camels before everyone else in the community took their turn at the water....

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.

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.

13 Behold, I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water:

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.

~ Abraham's servant probably had a hard time knowing which one was to be chosen. It looks as though he is just left to pick one at random. This servant is praying that the one he chooses is the one God wants him to choose! The servant is calling on the Lord for leading in the cause of working for another man. This servant honestly wants to make the right choice for Abraham and Isaac. Do you think this man is going to pick the best looking one? I do!

The Puritans had the idea that beauty was of the devil. Amazingly, the devil is a beautiful angel of light, we know. But God is our Creator, and we never see a beautiful flower or luscious fruit that He didn't make! God makes women beautiful. A Godly woman is ALWAYS a very attractive woman irrespective of external appearance. She attracts people to her from the inside – not from without. There's nothing wrong with that at all - and Rebekah was the most beautiful one in town, you may be absolutely sure....

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.

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.

~ Immediately the very one comes out to meet this servant; and the Word of God says Rebekah was beautiful. Satan today, and particularly of Hollywood, seems to get all the beautiful women. I nearly resent that for Christ's names' sake! I think He ought to have most of them. He made them to begin with. He gives them their devices to achieve maximum outward beauty. There is nothing wrong with being nice looking – or even amazingly beautiful. I pray God will call them into His service today. Of course, that will mean they have to learn to not have that proud look. A beautiful woman without the proud look is so rare – but so precious! Of course, the slightest hint of pride means there is a dam stopping up a flood plain of pride inside! So, be careful about that! Rebekah would have won any beauty contest unanimously - but - the most important note to make here is that Rebekah is also a very hospitable, courteous and polite woman....

17 And the servant ran to meet her, and said, Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher.

18 And she said, Drink, my lord: and she hasted, and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink.

19 And when she had done giving him drink, she said, I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking.

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.

21 And the man wondering at her held his peace, to wit whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous or not.

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;

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 ?

24 And she said unto him, I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, which she bare unto Nahor.

~ Drawing water for ten camels with empty humps is like filling a radiator in a car with a leaking hose. The camels just keep drinking for a very, very long time. Now, this servant is just standing there in amazement that he could have come right to this woman; and yet he is also still wondering if this is the leading of God or not. It is wonderful to have the Lord leading us, friends; even when we aren't sure of His will. We simply cannot make a mistake trusting Christ. Any way we go with Him He will win. God uses the saved and the unsaved to both bless and discipline his Own children. Those who say they are not believers are still wholly unable to escape the providence of the True and Living God; and that immutability is exactly what angers, frightens and, ultimately, paralyzes the atheist with fear....

25 She said moreover unto him, We have both straw and provender enough, and room to lodge in .

26 And the man bowed down his head, and worshipped the LORD.

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.

~ Here we have one of the great statements of the Bible...."I, being in the way, the Lord led me to the house." God leads His children who are in His way! He leads those who want to be led by Him. God leads those that WILL be led and that WILL do what He wants them to do – in OBEDIENT submission! God can and will use this type of willing heart every time! Moving forward from here, and as most of you already know, we had better keep one eye on Uncle Laban. Laban was greatly impressed by the material things these men had with them – because Laban loved his money; and he is eyeing the gold now - and he's not about to miss out on making a deal. Jacob will fill us in later on the details. Uncle Laban is a real piece of work. Now, Laban did believe the Lord; so, we will consider that. He is a lot like Lot in a lot of ways – mostly tragic, though. To his credit, Laban also gave water to wash the feet. We also have confirmed that there

were many men with Abraham's servant on this trip. Laban sees to a royal entertainment spectacle in his home - but the party isn't going to start in this report. You'll have to hang around as we venture on in our Spiritual Safari ~

28 And the damsel ran, and told them of her mother's house these things.

29 And Rebekah had a brother, and his name was Laban: and Laban ran out unto the man, unto the well.

30 And it came to pass, when he saw the earring and bracelets upon his sister's hands, and when he heard the words of Rebekah his sister, saying, Thus spake the man unto me; that he came unto the man; and, behold, he stood by the camels at the well.

31 And he said, Come in, thou blessed of the LORD; wherefore standest thou without? For I have prepared the house, and room for the camels.

32 And the man came into the house: and he ungirded his camels, and gave straw and provender for the camels, and water to wash his feet, and the men's feet that were with him ~

