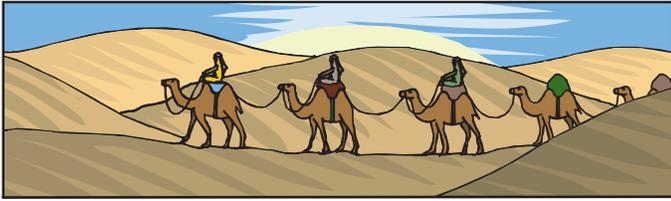




Isaac & Rebekah

Genesis 24



This week we see a beautiful example of faith and obedience. God promises He will bless us when we choose to obey Him (Luke 11:28). God ALWAYS keeps His promises.

Day #1: God Will Provide

When Abraham was 75 years old, the Lord had told him to leave his homeland. God guided him to live in the land of Canaan. God promised to give the land of Canaan to Abraham's family.

When Abraham was 140 years old, he knew it was time to find a wife for his son, Isaac. Remember, Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born, so how old was Isaac at this time? (40 years old) God did not want anyone in Abraham's family to marry anyone from the land of Canaan, because the Canaanites worshipped false gods (Deuteronomy 7:1-4). Abraham knew that Isaac's wife should come from his homeland. But Abraham also knew that God did not want him or Isaac to go back to that land. It may have seemed like a difficult task to find a wife in a land they could not go to, but **God would provide a way.**

Wisely, Abraham called for his most trusted servant. He asked the servant to go to Abraham's relatives in his homeland to find a wife for Isaac, and bring her to Canaan. He made his servant promise two things. First, he would not get Isaac's wife from Canaan. Secondly, he would never take Isaac out of Canaan. The servant was glad to help Abraham, but he wondered what would happen if the woman he found did not want to come to Canaan to marry Isaac.

Abraham reminded his servant about God's promises. Then he said:

The Lord will send his angel ahead of you. So you will be able to get a wife for my son from there. - Genesis 24:7b

Again, Abraham showed that he had faith in God's promises. He wanted to obey God in every way, and he was certain that God would bless him with a wife for Isaac.

Whenever we choose to follow God's plan, He will provide a way for us. Nothing is too difficult for Him! (Genesis 18:14, Jeremiah 32:27)

Day #2: Praying God's Will

What do you think you would do if someone asked you to find a wife for his son? How would you find the unmarried women in a town you had never been to?

Abraham's servant took ten camels and precious gifts with him when he set out on his journey. He rode almost 500 miles to Abraham's homeland. When he came to the right town, it was early evening. The servant made his camels rest near the town well. The servant did not start asking people where the unmarried women were. He didn't set out a sign that said, "Single women, line up here." This faithful servant had a much better plan than that! He asked the One who knows all things.

Then he prayed, "Lord, you are the God of my master Abraham. Give me success today. Be kind to my master Abraham." - Genesis 24:12

As the women of the town came to the well to get water, the servant told God that he would ask a young woman for water. He asked God to let him know which woman was right for Isaac by having that woman offer to get water for his camels.

Even before the servant finished praying, a beautiful young woman named Rebekah came out to get water. Rebekah was Abraham's great-niece, and she was not married. Notice how eager God is to bless those who follow Him! God sent the answer to the servant's prayer even before he was finished praying!

The servant had prayed according to God's will. He asked for a wife for Isaac from among Abraham's relatives. This would fulfill God's promise that Isaac would have many children, and would obey God's command that Isaac not marry a woman from Canaan.

Before you pray, search God's word to find His promises and know His plan. Then ask for what is in keeping with His will.

There is one thing we can be sure of when we come to God in prayer. If we ask anything in keeping with what He wants, He hears us. If we know that God hears what we ask for, we know that we have it. - 1 John 14-15

Discuss the difference between asking for what we want and asking for what God wants.

Day #3: A Godly Example

When the beautiful young woman, Rebekah, came near the well, Abraham's servant rushed over to meet her. He asked her for some water.

After she had given him a drink, she said, "I'll get water

Day #3 continued:

for your camels too. I'll keep doing it until they finish drinking." - Genesis 24:19

Ten camels can drink a lot of water after crossing the desert! Not just any woman would make such an offer. This was the sign that the servant had asked for from the Lord. After all of his camels were finished drinking, the servant gave Rebekah some gold jewelry.

He asked Rebekah who she was. When he found out that she was a relative of Abraham's, he was overwhelmed with joy.

Then the man bowed down and worshiped the Lord. He said, "I praise the Lord, the God of my master Abraham. He hasn't stopped being kind and faithful to my master. The Lord has led me on this journey. He has brought me to the house of my master's relatives." - Genesis 24:26-27

Because this servant was very close to Abraham, he knew a great deal about God. More than likely, this servant was one of the servants Abraham took with him when he went to sacrifice Isaac (Genesis 22:3). By watching Abraham, the servant learned that God hears the prayers of His people and provides what they need (Proverbs 15:29, Genesis 22:14). Because of Abraham, the servant knew how to praise and worship the Lord. This servant put his trust in God because of Abraham's example, and he, too, became a part of God's plan.

Who do you influence? List people in your life who may be watching your example. Do they see your faith in action, as Abraham's servant did? Abide in God and ask Him to make Himself known to others through your example.

Day #4: The Right One

Have you ever had some really exciting news? Maybe it was a great grade at school, or maybe you got a new pet. How did you feel when you had to wait to tell someone your great news? Abraham's servant had some awesome news!

Rebekah invited the servant to stay with her family. Rebekah's family welcomed Abraham's servant into their home.

Then food was placed in front of him. But he said, "I won't eat until I've told you what I have to say." - Genesis 24:33

Abraham's servant was bursting with excitement by the time he arrived at Rebekah's house. He had traveled 500 miles across the desert, and God had been with him every step of the way. God had answered his prayers and led him right to the perfect girl for Isaac. He couldn't wait to tell Rebekah and her family the reason he had come. Rebekah's family would soon find out that they had been chosen to be a part of God's plan to bless the entire world (Genesis 12:3).

Starting from the beginning, the servant told the family all about Abraham and God's blessings on him. He told

Day #4 continued:

them how the Lord led him to Rebekah. Then he asked if they would allow Rebekah to marry Isaac. Rebekah's father and brother said, "The Lord has done all of this." (Genesis 24:50) They knew it was the Lord's plan, so they would not stand in the way.

God had chosen Rebekah to be Isaac's wife. It was through her that Isaac would have children, and the family line would continue for centuries. Into this family line, God's Son, Jesus, would be given. Abraham and his servant were both faithful to pray for God to lead them to the right wife for Isaac.

Parents, take the time to pray with your child for the person he or she will one day marry. Pray for God to lead your child to just the right person at just the right time in his or her life. A godly marriage is a blessing from God (Proverbs 31:10-12). A godly family brings glory to the Lord, and affects countless people (Psalm 127:3-5).

Day #5: Obey Right Away

Has this situation ever happened in your home? Your mom tells you to do your homework right after school. You know you should obey, but you think, "I'll do it in a little while." Then you start to play in your room or watch television. Before you know it, it is time to eat dinner. After dinner, your mom asks to see your homework and you realize you never got around to it! You might get in trouble, or you might even miss out on something fun that your family was planning to do after dinner.

There is a phrase that says, "Delayed obedience = disobedience." This means if you wait to obey, it is the same as disobeying. Rebekah's family knew what the Lord wanted them to do. Next, they were faced with the choice to obey or delay.

After Rebekah's family gave their permission for their daughter to marry Isaac, the servant praised the Lord once again. He handed out gifts to celebrate.

The next morning the servant asked if they could leave right away, but Rebekah's family hesitated. After all, Canaan was a long way from them. They might not see their daughter again for many, many years. The servant begged them to let her leave right away. They asked Rebekah what she wanted to do.

And she replied, "Yes, I will go." - Genesis 24:58b NLT

Literally overnight, Rebekah's life changed completely. She left her mother, father, brother, and all of her friends. She left everything that was familiar to her to marry a man she had never met. She TRUSTED God enough to go with the servant He had sent for her. She believed that God's way was the BEST way. Rebekah chose to obey right away, and God blessed her with a husband who loved her (Genesis 24:67).

Do not get in the habit of putting off or delaying your obedience. It leaves the door open for distractions. The Lord has perfect timing! You can be sure that if He has instructed you to do something, you will be blessed if you obey right away.