

Introduction

Some people have a destination in mind. On their journey, they don't stop and sight-see. They don't smell the roses on the way. They have a place to get to, a destination, and their mission is to get there. Others don't share that burden and passion to get someplace. They want to enjoy the journey. I understand these different temperaments and personality types. A few years ago, I took our leadership team through a series of classes by Dalton Jantzen. They ran a personality test for all of us. On my test, I was off the charts in the area of goals and tasks. I am the one that has a passion to reach my destination. I have a tendency not to stop along the way. When Karen and I traveled playing professional golf, we had a fifteen passenger van and a trailer for our luggage. We had seven children at the time and we were on the road going to another city every week. When we were traveling, fifteen minutes before we were going to stop, I would call out to everyone in the van to put their shoes on and get ready to get out. I would drop Karen and the children off at Subway, or another restaurant and they would order their food and eat. They would also order my food for me. Then, while they are at the restaurant, I would drive to the gas station and fill up the van. Then, I would drive back to Subway and pick them up. I would eat my lunch while Karen drove. I did not waste any time. We had a destination to get to.

In our text today, Abraham's servant has a destination to get to. He is not stopping on the way to smell the roses. He has been charged with a task by his master, Abraham, and nothing is going to slow him down in accomplishing that task. The servant prayed to God to give him success and to show lovingkindness to his master, Abraham. He prayed, and he prayed with the right motives. He also prayed that God would lead him and to reveal the appointed wife for Isaac. He prayed specifically that the woman at the well that responded by offering to water his camels as well would be the appointed woman. He wasn't even done praying and Rebekah shows up at the well. When the servant asked her for a drink of water, she offered to water his camels also. I mentioned last week that ten thirsty camels would drink 300-400 gallons of water. That would be between 2500 and 3500 pounds of water that Rebekah was going to have to draw and carry to the trough for him. God revealed the appointed one to the servant, and He also revealed a little bit about the character of Rebekah. She was beautiful. She was a virgin. She was a righteous woman. She was hard-working and did not merely look out for her own interests, but also the interests of others. She was hospitable and offered the servant a place to stay, feed for his camels, and brought him to their house. God had answered the servant's prayer.

But Abraham's servant had a task to finish. After finding out that she was a relative of Abraham, he gave her a ring and ten gold bracelets which weighed ½ shekel each. Last week I mentioned that the current value of that gift would be about \$6300.00. Rebekah offers the servant to come stay at their house. Upon arriving at the house they offer him something to eat. The servant tells them that he cannot eat until after he tells them his business. Like me, Abraham's servant was task-oriented and was on a mission. In our text today, we will finish up the remaining part of Genesis 24, which is about finding a wife for Isaac. There are two remaining points: The Servant Meets with Rebekah's Family, and Isaac Marries Rebekah.

1. **Abraham's Charge** (Gen 24:1-9)
2. **Servant's Prayer** (Gen 24:10-14)
3. **Answer To Prayer** (Gen 24:15-27)
4. **Servant Meets With Rebekah's Family** (Gen 24:28-61)
5. **Isaac Marries Rebekah** (Gen24:62-67)

4. **Servant Meets With Rebekah's Family** (Gen 24:28-61)

(Gen 24:28-61) "Then the girl ran and told her mother's household about these things. {29} Now Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban; and Laban ran outside to the man at the spring. {30} When he saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister's wrists, and when he heard the words of Rebekah his sister, saying, "This is what the man said to me," he went to the man; and behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring. {31} And he said, "Come in, blessed of the LORD! Why do you stand outside since I have prepared the house, and a place for the camels?" {32} So the man entered the house. Then Laban unloaded the camels, and he gave straw and feed to the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him. {33} But when food was set before him to eat, he said, "I will not eat until I have told my business." And he said, "Speak on." {34} So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. {35} "The LORD has greatly blessed my master, so that he has become rich; and He has given him flocks and herds, and silver and gold, and servants and maids, and camels and donkeys. {36} "Now Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master in her old age, and he has given him all that he has. {37} "My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; {38} but you shall go to my father's house and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son.' {39} "I said to my master, 'Suppose the woman does not follow me.' {40} "He said to me, 'The LORD, before whom I have walked, will send His angel with you to make your journey successful, and you will take a wife for my son from my relatives and from my father's house; {41} then you will be free from my oath, when you come to my relatives; and if they do not give her to you, you will be free from my oath.' {42} "So I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now You will make my journey on which I go successful; {43} behold, I am standing by the spring, and may it be that the maiden who comes out to draw, and to whom I say, "Please let me drink a little water from your jar"; {44} and she will say to me, "You drink, and I will draw for your camels also"; let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.' {45} "Before I had finished speaking in my heart, behold, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder, and went down to the spring and drew, and I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' {46} "She quickly lowered her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will water your camels also'; so I drank, and she watered the camels also. {47} "Then I asked her, and said, 'Whose daughter are you?' And she said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him'; and I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her wrists. {48} "And I bowed low and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had guided me in the right way to take the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. {49} "So now if you are going to deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, let me know, that I may turn to the right hand or the left." {50} Then Laban and Bethuel replied, "The matter comes from the LORD; so we cannot speak to you bad or good. {51} "Here is Rebekah before you, take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the LORD has spoken." {52} When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed himself to the ground before the LORD. {53} The servant brought out articles of silver and articles of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother. {54} Then he and the men who were with him ate and drank and spent the night. When they arose in the morning, he said, "Send me away to my master." {55} But her brother and her mother said, "Let the girl stay with us a few days, say ten; afterward she may go." {56} He said to them, "Do not delay me, since the LORD has prospered my way. Send me away that I may go to my master." {57} And they said, "We will call the girl and consult her wishes." {58} Then

they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" And she said, "I will go." {59} Thus they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse with Abraham's servant and his men. {60} They blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, Become thousands of ten thousands, And may your descendants possess The gate of those who hate them." {61} Then Rebekah arose with her maids, and they mounted the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed."

Our text starts by saying that the **girl** ran and told her mother's household about all these things. I believe that Rebekah is still fairly young. I cannot find any reference to her exact age, but the Strong's Dictionary says that Hebrew word, na'ara (Strong's H5291) means a girl from infancy to adolescence. As to the age of Isaac, I mentioned last week that I think this happened shortly after Sarah's death. In Genesis 25:20 we are told that "*Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife.*" There was probably a twenty to twenty-five year difference in their ages.

Rebekah ran and told her mother's household about all these things. I thought about why she did not say her father's household, and there is a good reason. In Genesis 22:20-24, we saw that Bethuel had Rebekah with Milcah. But Bethuel had another wife, a concubine, who bore him other children. A concubine was a wife, but she had no legal rights. So, the father split his time between the two different households. The households were known by the mother, who was the constant. This was not God's intent. His intent for marriage was given in Genesis 2, and he said the two shall become one.

Rebekah was obviously pretty excited about the jewelry that she had just been given. At this point the servant has not told Rebekah everything. What he has done is give her \$6300.00 worth of gold bracelets and a gold ring. Solomon wrote in Proverbs 18:16 that "*A man's gift makes room for him And brings him before great men.*" There was a reason that the servant brought ten camels. They had lots of gifts with them. His initial gifts to Rebekah had made room for him. And, they were excited to have him come to their house. After telling her household, her brother, Laban, ran outside.

Enthusiasm and excitement are contagious. Anybody that watches sports, and especially college football, knows that momentum is important. When a player makes a great play, it can get the whole team excited. The momentum shifts and games are won with the enthusiasm. First, Rebekah was excited; now the whole household was excited.

Do you want to know a secret about church growth? When the people of the household get excited about what is going on, they tell other people about their church. They run to other people and tell them. They invite other people.

Do you want to know the secret to evangelism? It is not programs. Evangelistic programs raise the awareness and many times equip people for evangelism. But, it is not programs that produce evangelistic results. When people get excited about Jesus, they tell other people about Jesus. I have said for many years that the church has the cart before the horse. We need to get people to fall in love with Jesus. We need to get people to grow in their relationship with Christ. When people get excited about Jesus, they will tell others about Him. That is evangelism.

Do you know why power evangelism works? It is because people get pretty excited when they get healed by Jesus and they tell others. In Mark 7:31-37, Jesus came to the southern side of the Sea of Galilee, to the region of Decapolis. There was a deaf man who spoke with difficulty. Jesus healed the man so that he could hear and speak. Then, He *“gave them orders not to tell anyone, but the more He ordered them, the more widely they continued to proclaim it.”* Pastors should not order people not to proclaim Christ. That was not the point. The point was that they were astonished or amazed by what Christ did. They were excited about what He did, and when you are excited, you will tell other people. As your pastor, I encourage you to get excited about Jesus. Take risks and pray for people. When people get saved or healed, they will get excited, and so will you.

(Mark 7:31-37) “Again He went out from the region of Tyre, and came through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, within the region of Decapolis. {32} They *brought to Him one who was deaf and spoke with difficulty, and they *implored Him to lay His hand on him. {33} Jesus took him aside from the crowd, by himself, and put His fingers into his ears, and after spitting, He touched his tongue with the saliva; {34} and looking up to heaven with a deep sigh, He *said to him, "Ephphatha!" that is, "Be opened!" {35} And his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was removed, and he began speaking plainly. {36} And He gave them orders not to tell anyone; but the more He ordered them, the more widely they continued to proclaim it. {37} They were utterly astonished, saying, "He has done all things well; He makes even the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

The woman at the well in John 4 got excited. Jesus gave her a prophetic word about her life that helped her believe that He is the Messiah. What did she do? She ran to her hometown and told everyone that she had found the Messiah. Many in that town believed because of her testimony. Many others went out to see Jesus themselves. One excited woman got a whole town excited about Jesus. Rebekah was excited and ran and told her household.

(John 4:16-42) “He said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here." {17} The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus *said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; {18} for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly." {19} The woman *said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet....{28} So the woman left her waterpot, and went into the city and *said to the men, {29} "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?" {30} They went out of the city, and were coming to Him....{39} From that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all the things that I have done." ...{41} Many more believed because of His word; {42} and they were saying to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world."

When Laban saw the gifts and heard Rebekah speak he was pretty excited. He said to the servant, “Come in, blessed of the Lord!” Laban prepared the house and a place for the camels. He unloaded the camels, fed them, and then brought water to wash the feet of the servant and the men with him. His excitement led to hospitality.

When food was set before the servant, he said that he would not eat until he had told his business. The servant was on a mission. Abram’s business was a priority before his own food.

That is another principle that we can apply. God tells us to seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to us. We are to put God's business first in our lives. God is the priority of our lives. How do you know if He is the priority? Where do you spend your money? Do you give the first portion of your income to the Lord? Do you honor God with your wealth? Where do you spend your time? Do you spend the first part of the day meeting with the Lord or do you eat breakfast first and do business with God later? God wants to be our priority. In Job 23:12, he said, "I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food." Job was like Abraham's servant. He sought God's word to him more than his necessary food. I am sure that the servant and the men with him were hungry and tired from the journey, but his master's business came before his own needs. One of the keys to serving people is to put their needs before your own needs. That is sacrificial service and it honors God. Paul wrote about that in Philippians 2:3-4 when he said, "*Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; {4} do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.*" The servant saw Abraham as more important and he looked out for his interests first.

After the servant shares the charge that he was given by Abraham, his prayer to God, and the answer to that prayer, Laban and Bethuel replied, "the matter comes from the Lord; so we cannot speak to you bad or good. Here is Rebekah before you, take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has spoken." They were agreeable to do this because they saw that it was God's will. They saw God's hand in every detail and thing that had happened. After getting their approval, the servant brought out articles of silver and gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave precious things to Laban and her mother. There was a reason for bringing ten camels. They were loaded with gifts for the bride and her family.

The next morning, the servant said, "Send me away to my master." But Laban and her mother asked that she might stay another ten days before leaving. Remember that the servant is on a mission. His task is not over until Rebekah is in the arms of Isaac. So, he told them, "do not delay me, since the Lord has prospered my way. Send me away that I may go to my master."

There is an issue of timing that is important to me. I am not saying that the timing here is wrong, but it is an issue to me. God may have plans for a man and woman to get married, but a good question is the timing. I have told more than one man who was interested in one of our daughters that the timing was not right. I told two of them that they needed to get their education or a trade skill so that they could support my daughter. I have told them to work on certain things and then come back so that we can revisit those issues. Timing is important. In the conversations, there was no mention of Isaac's character. There was a push by the servant to do it now. That would set off some warning flags to me.

It is interesting that Laban and Bethuel gave permission to take the daughter, but when it is time to leave, Laban and Rebekah's mother said, "we will call the girl and consult her wishes." What about her wishes before giving her hand away in marriage. I would not give my daughter to a man in marriage if she had no desire to marry him. I would have consulted her wishes first. Even if I thought it was of the Lord, I would consult her wishes. If the girl said no, it might mean the timing is wrong. It could be that I have heard wrong. I would get some clarification if there were some warning signs or flags.

Rebekah said that she would go with the man, so they blessed Rebekah and said to her, “May you, our sister, become thousands of ten thousands, and may your descendants possess the gate of those who hate them.” Earlier in Genesis 18:18 and 22:18, God told Abraham that all the nations of the earth will be blessed by his seed. The blessing that Laban and Rebekah’s mother gave her was consistent with the blessings that God had promised to Abraham.

I believe that we should get in the habit of blessing people. We should pray for people, and one of the things that we should pray is blessings. Karen and I were part of the Vineyard family of churches for many years, and really like it. One of the things that is taught in the Vineyard is to always pray blessings on people. If you don’t know what to pray, pray a blessing on the person. If you do have something specific to pray, pray it, and also pray a blessing. In Ephesians 1, we find that we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. God, our Father blesses us. We are his representatives, and we should be blessing people also.

After being blessed, Rebekah arose with her maids, mounted the camels, and followed the man. The camels came loaded with gifts for the wife to be and her family. The camels returned with a gift for Isaac. In Proverbs 19:14, we learn that house and wealth are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the Lord.” Rebekah is a prudent wife, and she is a gift to Isaac from the Lord. Men, we need to treat our wives with honor and respect, and recognize that they are gifts from Him. I give thanks to God every day for Karen. She has been and is the most awesome gift that I have been given here on earth.

5. Isaac Marries Rebekah (Gen24:62-67)

(Gen 24:62-67) “Now Isaac had come from going to Beer-lahai-roi; for he was living in the Negev. {63} Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening; and he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, camels were coming. {64} Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from the camel. {65} She said to the servant, "Who is that man walking in the field to meet us?" And the servant said, "He is my master." Then she took her veil and covered herself. {66} The servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. {67} Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and he took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her; thus Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

We find that Isaac has been living in the Negev, which means the south country. He had been in Beer-lahai-roi. In Genesis 16:13-14, Hagar had fled from Sarai and it was at this well that she had an encounter with the Lord. She gave it that name because it meant, “the well of the living One who sees me.” Beer-lahai-roi is between Kadesh and Bered. Our text does not say why Isaac was living in the Negev, and not near his father. It could be that he is overseeing some of the livestock and they are in the Negev. It could be that Abraham married Keturah and Isaac did not feel part of this new family. We don’t know exactly why. After Abraham dies in Genesis 25, Isaac lived by Beer-lahai-roi, so he must have enjoyed living there.

(Gen 16:13-14) “Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are a God who sees"; for she said, "Have I even remained alive here after seeing Him?" {14} Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; behold, it is between Kadesh and Bered.”

(Gen 25:11) “It came about after the death of Abraham, that God blessed his son Isaac; and Isaac lived by Beer-lahai-roi.”

We learn that Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening. We could spend a whole hour talking about meditating. One year I went out to Las Vegas to play in the Las Vegas Invitational. I never looked forward to Las Vegas. It seemed like a bombardment of sensual things and it was hard to get away from it. Even at restaurants there were keno runners in scanty outfits. There were slot machines at the tables in the restaurants. So, this particular year, I made a game plan. When I was not at the golf course practicing or playing, I was going to stay in my hotel room and read my Bible and pray. I picked out some passages to read and study. While I was there, I spent a lot of time thinking and chewing on those passages. I began to take time to think about each word in each verse. I thought about the different ways to apply the Scripture in my life. I thought about examples, either negative or positive, that I had seen that relate to the verse. I ended up spending hours at a time on a single verse. In that week at Las Vegas, God taught me how to meditate on Scripture. I put together a comprehensive teaching on meditation and have taught it many times over the past thirty-five years. The week in Vegas turned out to be one of the best weeks in my life. The week after Vegas was the Disney Classic in Orlando. When I arrived there, my friend, Bill Porter, took one look at me and said what happened to you. He said I was glowing. I got to share with him how I had spent my week in prayer and meditation of God's word.

In Psalm 119:148, it says, "my eyes anticipate the night watches, that I may meditate on Your word." That is what Isaac was doing. It was toward evening, and he was going to meditate. In Joshua 1:8, we are told to meditate on this book of the law day and night so that we may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. There are promises to us when we meditate on God's word. God promises to make our way prosperous and give us success. In Psalm 1, God promises to make us like a well watered tree that bears its fruit in season and prospers in whatever he does. The book of the law, the Word of God, had not been written, so we have an advantage. Isaac did not have the book of the law, so I suspect He was meditating on things that God had spoken to his father or to him.

I also suspect He was meditating on God and His works. In Psalm 77, Asaph said the he would meditate with his heart. He said in verse eleven that He would remember the deeds of the Lord and the wonders of old. In verse 12, he said that he would meditate on God's work and muse on His deeds. Isaac may not have had the written word, but the works of God were there for him, just as they are for us. We can see God's work in the stars at night. We can see God's work in the oceans and mountains. We can see God's work in the birds and animals. I am amazed at all the species of birds and their vibrant colors. I am amazed at the different fish and their colors. God's work is everywhere. Isaac may have meditated on these things, but he may have meditated on the flood that Noah went through. We don't know what he meditated on, but I believe that his meditation was an indication of the walk that He had with God. I think He meditated as part of His fellowship and time with God. I spend a lot of early mornings praying and meditating on the passages that I am going to preach.

(Psa 77:6-12) "I will remember my song in the night; I will meditate with my heart...{11} I shall remember the deeds of the LORD; Surely I will remember Your wonders of old. {12} I will meditate on all Your work And muse on Your deeds."

As Isaac lifted up his eyes from meditating, he saw the caravan of camels coming. For all we know, Isaac may have been meditating on what it was going to be like being married. He knew that his father had sent out the servant to find a wife for him. Some scholars believe that this is

the reason that Isaac came up from Beer-lahai-roi to Hebron. He came to visit his father and to pick up the bride that his father was bringing for him. Our text does not say this, so these are just speculations of why he came.

When Rebekah lifted up her eyes, she dismounted from the camel and asked the servant who that man was in the field coming towards them. He replied that it was his master. Abraham was his master, but Isaac was the heir to everything that Abraham had, so in that sense, Isaac was also the servant's master. Rebekah covered her face with a veil. In the Middle East where I grew up, a woman was only allowed to show her face to her family and to her husband. To this day, the women in the Middle East wear a burka. In Iran, where I lived, they called it a chador. Anytime a woman was in public, she kept her head and face covered. So, Rebekah did what any unmarried woman was suppose to do; she covered herself and her face.

The servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Notice that we are told what Abraham charged the servant to do and what the servant did. Then, the servant told Rebekah's family what Abraham had said and what he did. Now, the servant is telling Isaac the whole story. When God does things in our lives, we have ample opportunities to share testimonies and stories. Testimonies build up the faith of people. We need to be ready to share our testimonies at any time. We need to ask God for opportunities. We need to look for those opportunities. In Colossians 4 we are also exhorted to make the most of those opportunities. The servant got to share his testimony with Isaac.

Finally, in verse sixty-seven, Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and he took Rebekah and she became his wife. I don't know why they didn't have a marriage ceremony. I don't know why Abraham is not there to see his son get married and to bless his marriage. Abraham was the one that sent his servant out to find a wife. I mentioned last week that I have lots of questions about why things did or did not happen.

It says that he loved her. The Hebrew word is *ahab* (Strong's H157), which means to have affection for, sexual or otherwise. Wives need to be shown affection. In Proverbs 27:5, Solomon wrote, "*Better is open rebuke than love that is concealed.*" We need to show affection to our spouses, and Isaac loved Rebekah and showed affection to her. But, love is more than that.

In John 15:13, John wrote, "*greater love has no one than to lay his life down for his friends.*" Christ's love was sacrificial. In Ephesians 5:25-31, Paul wrote that we are to love our wives as Christ loved the church – that is sacrificially. We are to lay our lives down for our wives. Paul wrote some other ways for husbands to love their wives. He said we are to love our wives as we love ourselves. We are to nourish and cherish our wives. My wife's spiritual growth is my responsibility. I am to make sure that she is spiritually nourished. The Greek word is *ektrepho*, which means to feed or nourish to maturity. We are also to sanctify her, which means to make holy, and we do this by cleansing her by the water of water with the word. We need to wash our wives with the word of God. Paul also refers back to Genesis 2:24, where the foundation of marriage is given. A man is to leave their father and mother and cleave to his wife. The Hebrew word is *dabaq*, which means to overtake through pursuit. Men, we need to pursue our wives like we did before we were married. We need to continually win them. The Greek word is *proskollao*, which means to glue together. We are to become glued to our wives. As men, we are called to become one with our wives. Paul wrote in Colossians that love is the perfect bond of unity. If there is a lack of unity in a marriage, I believe that more love is needed.

(Eph 5:25-31) “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; {26} that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, {27} that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless. {28} So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; {29} for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, {30} because we are members of His body. {31} FOR THIS CAUSE A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND SHALL CLEAVE TO HIS WIFE; AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.”

Many people lack a Biblical understanding of love. They think it is an emotion or feeling. In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul wrote a whole chapter on love. He wrote about the superiority of love in the first three verses. In verses 8-13, he wrote about the duration of love. In verses 4-7, he wrote about the character of love. He said that love is patient, love is kind. Love does not seek its own, is not provoked, and does not take into account a wrong suffered. In other words, love forgives and gives grace to one another. I have found that most couples do not have this kind of love for one another.

(1 Cor 13:4-7) “Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, {5} does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, {6} does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; {7} bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

I am still learning to love my wife as Christ loved the church. I don’t love her nearly as much as I should, because I don’t have Christ’s perfect love working through me 100% of the time. I do love my wife and I tell her that every morning as soon as she wakes up. Isaac loved Rebekah, and that is a message that men today need to hear.

Our passage ends today by saying that “thus Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.” We talked about grieving and mourning for the dead a couple of weeks ago. The mourning process make take a few weeks, and it may take a few years. It has been three years from his mother’s death, and he is just now being comforted from her death. There is a new chapter about to begin in Isaac’s life. The mourning season is over, and there are new things in store for him. The last chapter has ended and a new one has begun.

Conclusion and Applications

In Genesis 24, Abraham charged his servant to find a wife for Isaac. His charge was based on the prophetic word that God had given him. The servant put his hand under Abraham’s thigh and made an oath that he would carry out Abraham’s command. The servant prayed and asked God to make him successful and to show His lovingkindness to Abraham. The servant prayed specifically that God would show him the woman God had appointed for Isaac. God revealed to the servant that Rebekah was the appointed one. The servant met with Rebekah’s family and would not eat until he told them his business. He shared the story with them, and they recognized the matter was from God, and they gave their blessing to Rebekah to marry Isaac, a man she has never met. When the servant arrives with Rebekah, Isaac hears the story from the servant and then takes Rebekah to be his wife, and he loved her.

The passage is rich with applications. We learn from the servant to put God's kingdom and His business first. We sang about putting God first in our worship time. This morning, is God speaking to you about making Him the priority in your life. Is He speaking to you about worshiping Him with your whole heart, with all your mind and all your strength. Let me encourage you to make Him Lord of your life this morning. Tell the Lord this morning that you are going to put Him first in your life. Make Him the priority in your life. Set aside your first time each morning to spend with Him.

We saw how Rebekah got excited and ran to tell her family about Abraham's servant. We saw that Laban got excited and ran out to meet the servant. Laban enthusiastically served by feeding the camels, unloading the camels, bringing water to wash their feet. When people are excited about something, they serve and they tell others. Are you excited about the Lord? Do you actively serve the Lord in His church? Do you run and tell others about Jesus? God does not want us luke warm; He wants us excited and passionate about Him. Are there other things in your life that are stealing your passion? Ask the Lord to fill you with His joy. God wants you and He wants His church to be excited and full of enthusiasm. Things happen when God's people get excited.

It could be this morning that God has been speaking to you about meditation. Meditation on God, His work, and His word is one of the biggest joys in my life. Every morning, I have the privilege of meditating and praying. I love my time with the Lord, and the time I spend meditating. I encourage you to anticipate the night watches. Pick out a verse or passage and read it before bed. Spend time reflecting on it as you go to sleep and in the morning. There are rich rewards for those who continually meditate on His word. Set aside time to do what Isaac did, and spend time meditating.

It could be this morning that God has been speaking to you about love. God wants us to love one another the way that He loves us, which is sacrificial. If God is speaking to you about love, spend some time meditating on 1 Corinthians 13 or Ephesians 5. Let God's word perform its work in your life. Jesus said in John 13:35 that "by this all men will know that you are My disciple, if you have love for one another." Love is to be the key way for people to know that we are followers of Jesus. When people see you, do they see love? Tell God this morning that you want to learn to love others in the same way You love us.

Perhaps you have never really experienced God's love. In 1 John 4:7-8 we find that those who do not love do not know God. We love because He first loved us. If you have never received Christ into your life, let me invite You to receive Him into your life this morning. His love will forever change your life. John wrote that everyone that loves is born of God and knows God, for God is love. If you would like to receive Christ, it is easy. You must believe that God raised Christ from the dead, and you must confess Jesus as Lord. If you believe, then just tell God that you believe and then confess or tell Him that you are making Him Lord of your life.

Let's pray.

Introduction

1. Abraham's Charge (Gen 24:1-9)
 2. Servant's Prayer (Gen 24:10-14)
 3. Answer To Prayer (Gen 24:15-27)
 - 4. Servant Meets With Rebekah's Family** (Gen 24:28-61)
 - 5. Isaac Marries Rebekah** (Gen24:62-67)
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- 4. Servant Meets With Rebekah's Family** (Gen 24:28-61, 25:20, 22:20-24, 2:24, 18:18, 22:18, Pro 18:16, 19:14, Mark 7:31-37, John 4:16-42, Matt 6:33, Job 23:12, Phil 2:3-4)
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- 5. Isaac Marries Rebekah** (Gen 24:62-67, 16:13-14, 25:11, 2:24, Ps 119:148, Ps 1:2-3, 77:6-12, Col 4:5, Pr 27:5, John 15:13, Eph 5:25-31, 1 Cor 13:1-13)

Conclusion and Applications (John 13:34-35, 1 John 4:7-8)