

God's Redemptive Plan Continues

❖ Recap: Abraham took Isaac to Sacrifice him

- God provided

❖ Introduction

- **We are studying how God brought Isaac the son of Abraham together with his wife Rebekah...**
 - It is a love story today!!!
- **Today you may think... what great truths can we possibly learn from this story...**
 - This is just a story of a man sending his servant to find a wife for his son...
 - What great Biblical truths can we possibly find...?
- **And What do we continue to see... even in this story of a man finding a wife...**
 - We see God's Faithfulness...
 - How comforting it is to know God is concerned with His people
- **This event is an event for all people...**
 - Either you are married... or you have a child that will one day get married...
 - Or you are close to someone who will be getting married...
- **Today's text teaches us many things about how we are to trust in God**

❖ Abraham's Sends His Servant to Find His Son a Wife

- **Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things. ²And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh, ³that I may make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell, ⁴but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac."**
- **God had been very good to Abraham...**
- **But God had promised Him many descendants through his son Isaac**
 - And He was gonna trust God with this
- **He asks his servant to find His son a wife...**
 - But notice... He doesn't want a wife from the people around him
 - These were people that did not serve the one True God..
- **He wanted a wife for his son from among his kindred...**
 - People He knew and were related to...
 - Which may sound weird to you but was very normal in those days...
- **Abraham wanted a wife that had similar values as His Son...**
 - Namely a wife that knew the Lord...

❖ The Promise of God to Go Before the Servant

- **⁵The servant said to him, "Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?" ⁶Abraham said to him, "See to it that you do not take my son back there. ⁷The Lord, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, 'To your offspring I will give this land,' he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. ⁸But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine; only you must not take my son back there." ⁹So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master and swore to him concerning this matter.**
- **The servant was a little worried He wouldn't be able to fulfill His Master's request...**
 - And so would I... can you imagine how difficult a task this would be...
 - I couldn't pick out the right color at the paint store for my wife if we were painting...

- Even when she gives me the color... She would say I want a blue...
- Something soft... but not too light... something relaxing... I would stare for hours...
- Then I would bring home some shades... And she would have to see what she liked...
- And that is pleasing one person

➤ **Can you imagine the difficulty in this task...**

- To find a girl for a son like Isaac... whom God has chosen to have children that will bless the world
- Every nation would be blessed through this generation....
- So the servant had to find a girl that Abraham approved of...
 - And one that Isaac approved of... And a girl that approved of Isaac and his family...
 - And He had to get through her mom, dad and brother
 - And on top of that it had to be someone God approved of... for both of them...

➤ **No wonder He was worried she may be unwilling to follow...**

- To make it more difficult... Abraham said... do not take my Son back to my home
- And He says this because God had called him and his Son to the land they were in...
- So His Son had to stay where God had called him...

➤ **Abraham trusted in God though...**

- He told the servant that God would send His angel...
- Interestingly... this could have been a normal angel...
- But so far in Abraham's dealings with an angel from the Lord.... It has been the Lord...
- So this could have been The Lord Jesus picking out his great great great..... grandmother!

➤ **Then they sealed the deal with a weird customary placing of the hand under the thigh**

- Then we see the servant off on his journey

❖ **The Servant Begins the Journey**

➤ ¹⁰Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, taking all sorts of choice gifts from his master; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia to the city of Nahor. ¹¹And he made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at the time of evening, the time when women go out to draw water.

➤ **The servant went prepared...**

- The scripture says... He literally took all sorts of gifts...
- **And then he went to Mesopotamia...**
 - And isn't that cool that Abraham was from Mesopotamia
 - And area are kids are taught about in school where early civilization began...

➤ **And Abraham's servant was obviously a wise servant...**

- He went to find a wife for Isaac where girls were... (no brainer)
 - If you want to find a spouse, you got to go where they are...
 - Illustration: Me at Southern Miss vs Me at NOBTS
- And apparently... the girls in those days weren't at the beauty shop
- Or shopping... or at the bar partying... or at college...
- They were drawing water from the well
- And maybe the servant wanted to find a hard working girl....

➤ **But above all we see something else in the servants plans...**

❖ **The Servant Relies on God**

➤ ¹²And he said, "O Lord, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham. ¹³Behold, I am standing by the spring of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. ¹⁴Let the young woman to whom I shall say, 'Please let down your jar that I may drink,' and who shall say, 'Drink, and I will water your camels'—let her be the

one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I shall know that you have shown steadfast love to my master.”

➤ **As would be the case in this situation... It would be hard to know which one is right...**

- So He came up with a test for the young lady...
- She needed to be a girl that He saw the quality of service in...
- But not simply helping him with water...
- But also going above and beyond and watering his camels as well...

➤ **And He prays and asks the Lord to grant Him success**

- Not only that... He is looking for the girl that had been appointed to Isaac...
- The servant is trusting the Lord...
- But also praying so that He does not make the wrong choice...

❖ **God Delivers on His Promise**

➤ ¹⁵ Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham’s brother, came out with her water jar on her shoulder. ¹⁶ The young woman was very attractive in appearance, a maiden whom no man had known. She went down to the spring and filled her jar and came up. ¹⁷ Then the servant ran to meet her and said, “Please give me a little water to drink from your jar.” ¹⁸ She said, “Drink, my lord.” And she quickly let down her jar upon her hand and gave him a drink. ¹⁹ When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, “I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking.” ²⁰ So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough and ran again to the well to draw water, and she drew for all his camels. ²¹ The man gazed at her in silence to learn whether the Lord had prospered his journey or not.

➤ **Then it all goes down... (God works quick)**

- In the middle of speaking to the Lord... Here comes Rebekah
- And we learn that she is one of Isaac’s cousins...
- She was Abraham’s brother’s son’s daughter...
 - So she wasn’t a first cousin... but a first cousin’s daughter...

➤ **Notice how the scripture describes her...**

- An attractive girl... and she was pure... she had never been with a man...

➤ **Then we see things start getting into a hurry...**

- The servant ran down to her... and asks for water...
- He was in a hurry to see if God had brought him the girl...
- The she quickly got him some water.... Then she quickly drew water for the camels...
- And she ran about doing her work...

➤ **And Abraham’s servant just watched her...**

- He wanted to see if God had blessed His journey

❖ **God’s Love and Sovereignty are Clearly Seen**

➤ ²² When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring weighing a half shekel, and two bracelets for her arms weighing ten gold shekels, ²³ and said, “Please tell me whose daughter you are. Is there room in your father’s house for us to spend the night?” ²⁴ She said to him, “I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor.” ²⁵ She added, “We have plenty of both straw and fodder, and room to spend the night.” ²⁶ The man bowed his head and worshiped the Lord ²⁷ and said, “Blessed be the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken his steadfast love and his faithfulness toward my master. As for me, the Lord has led me in the way to the house of my master’s kinsmen.” ²⁸ Then the young woman ran and told her mother’s household about these things.

➤ **God had answered the servant’s prayer...**

- So the man responded by choosing her...
- And He gave her lots of jewelry... good jewelry... GOLD!

- And one of them was a nose ring! OH MY! Its in the text later...
- Apparently it is biblical to have nose rings... for everyone...
 - Except my daughter!!!
 - Don't get too excited young ladies... this was a cultural thing back then...
- **But notice what we see...**
 - The man worshipped and thanked the God of Abraham...
 - He recognized that God had directed His path...
- **In His Sovereign plan...**
 - He directed the servant right to a girl who was from the right family...
 - That was amazing in itself...
 - God continued His love and faithfulness...
- **Then we see more running... this girl was excited...**
 - So she ran to tell her MOM!!!! Then notice how the family played a part in this...

❖ Her Brother gets involved

- **²⁹Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban.** (this wont be the last you hear of Laban will it?)
 Laban ran out toward the man, to the spring. ³⁰As soon as he saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister's arms, and heard the words of Rebekah his sister, "Thus the man spoke to me," he went to the man. And behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring. ³¹He said, "Come in, O blessed of the Lord. Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house and a place for the camels." ³²So the man came to the house and unharnessed the camels, and gave straw and fodder to the camels, and there was water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him. ³³Then food was set before him to eat. But he said, "I will not eat until I have said what I have to say." He said, "Speak on."
- **More Running... this time it is the brother... (everyone is in a big hurry in this story)**
 - As soon as He saw that jewelry on his sister... he wanted to know what was happening...
 - And Laban invites him into the their home
 - And they take good care of the servant of Abraham...
 - But the servant doesn't want to rest for one second until he tells them why he is there...
- **Do you notice her brother got involved!!!**
 - Yes He did!... She was important to him
 - **I have heard too many times... well... its their life... its their decision...**
 - And that is such a cop out isn't it? Do you see it?
 - Of course it is their life and their decision...
 - **But God did not create us alone on an island... rather in community...**
 - And my life is the business of my godly brothers and sisters in my life...
 - Don't lose sight of this...

❖ The Servant Recounts the Story

- **In verses 34 and following**
 - He retells the story of how Abraham and Sarah were blessed by God to have Isaac
 - And how God had blessed Abraham A LOT
 - He is saying... your daughter... your sister... Is going to be well taken care of
 - And then He tells them what Abraham sent him to do in finding a wife...
- **He told them of their trust in God**
 - ⁴⁰But he said to me, 'The Lord, before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you and prosper your way. You shall take a wife for my son from my clan and from my father's house.'
- **He continues to Recount the Story**
 - Then He tells them what He asked God for... what He was looking for and how He met Rebekah

- HE spoke of worshipping God... and how God had led him RIGHT away to the perfect girl
- Then He says... If you are going to give up your daughter/sister let me know
- If not... I have to continue my journey
- **So they answered with... yes... She can be His wife...**
 - **So He brought out more gifts for her... lots of them.**
 - And they spent the night there and were taken care of...
- **But they rose immediately the next day ready to go...**
 - But... her family was not ready for her to go... and who would blame them...
 - They wanted Rebekah to stay for ten more days and then come...
- **But the servant said... do not delay me... Since the Lord is in this... let me go...**
 - **So finally Rebekah gets in on the decision making...**
 - And she says she will be willing to go...
 - WOW... what a decision... She had never met Isaac...
 - She was trusting God with all of the details...

❖ **Rebekah left to meet Isaac...**

- **⁶² Now Isaac had returned from Beer-lahai-roi and was dwelling in the Negeb. ⁶³ And Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening. And he lifted up his eyes and saw, and behold, there were camels coming. ⁶⁴ And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she dismounted from the camel ⁶⁵ and said to the servant, "Who is that man, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶ And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷ Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.**
- **We see God's plan come to fruition...**
 - God has ordained this whole scenario...
 - While Isaac prayed... God was preparing him someone...
 - And when they met... Rebekah took her veil and covered herself...
 - She wasn't trying to seduce Isaac... She was modest... trusting God with her life

❖ **Application: Let me remind you of the importance of the Husband and Wife Relationship...**

- God created them male and female... And He put them together to raise families...
- The family unit is at the center of what God is doing in this world...
- It began with a man and a woman coming together...
- And it continued with a man and a woman coming together...
- Let me tell you... God is infinitely concerned with marriages...
- He really does care who you marry and why...
- He really does care how you live within your family...
- **I know how hard it is for us to remain righteous within our marriage relationships...**
 - **There are so many temptations and distractions...**
 - **I know them so well...**
 - We all focus on the big one of adultery... But that is not the only problem we face
 - Lying, Lust, stubbornness, emotional manipulation, outbursts of anger, selfishness
 - Broken promises, mismanagement of money, greed, husbands not leading well
 - Wives not submitting well, Neither loving as they should... there are many more
 - ◆ I have honestly failed at many if not most of them...
- **But know this today... God is concerned with the spousal relationship**
 - And if this brings up past hurts or pains
 - Or even current ones... Let them sink in...

- Thank God for the conviction...
- And then turn from them and allow the blood of Jesus to cover them...
- **Young people... This Text is particularly important for you...**
 - Hear what it is that God has to say to the Christian in regards to finding a spouse...
- **Today... in America... and even in churches... Especially in churches...**
 - Young people are growing up with a very devilish view of getting married...
 - It is actually satanic... yet it has infiltrated the minds and hearts of many in our church...
 - Do you know how hard it is for me as a pastor to marry people?
 - **I have two rules...**
 - 1) Go through premarital counseling
 - 2) Don't live and sleep together...
 - **They are pretty simple...**
 - Yet almost every couple that asks me to marry them struggles with this
- **A study in the 2000's show that women who were virgins when being married**
 - Only 5% divorced within the first 5 years...
 - All those from 1 to 10 partners before marriage.... 20-35% divorced within first 5 years
- **Today we teach that young people need to date a lot... test drive some guys and girls**
 - See what you like...
 - Yet the stats tell us this is destroying marriages before they even start...
 - They set up a pattern that it is ok to leave when you don't like things anymore...
 - Some stats say that people were 33% more likely to divorce if they lived together before marriage
 - The surveys also point out cohabitating before marriage leads to less happy and fulfilled marriages
 - **I tell my kids: "Don't give your hugs and kisses away to some who isn't your future spouse"**
- **Think about it:**
 - Today many believe we should live together to see if we love the person...
 - Instead of loving the person first... and saying no matter what comes... I will love
- **How many times have women come to my office...**
 - God has told me to marry this man... who does not love Jesus...
 - Or someone says... I fell in love with this other man or woman ... Besides my spouse
 - and I believe God is wanting me to be with them...
 - OH MY GOODNESS!
 - Let me tell you how many times I have seen this work out...uhhhhhhhh
 - Almost NONE!!!! ZERO...

❖ **Observations:**

- 1) God is involved in every part of our life.
- 2) We can trust God to fulfill His promises.
- 3) Never seek a spouse without the leading of God.
- **4) Never seek a spouse who is not also a follower of Jesus**
 - **2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?**
- **Young men: Trust God with the girl He wants for you...**
 - Seek a godly young woman...
 - Seek a girl who has a beauty deeper than the skin...
 - Yes... Seek a girl you are attracted to... but learn the right things to be attracted to
- **Young ladies...**
 - Do not settle for a man that does not love God...
 - Oh the heartache I have seen due to this one thing!

- It never works well!
- And it is ok to dress attractively... but don't dress seductively... there is a difference...
- **There are a million things we could say here but do not have the time...**

❖ **Let me end with this...**

- **When you trust in God for your spouse... you will never go wrong...**

❖ **Invitation**

- **This was not a very evangelistic sermon was it?**
 - But we still have an opportunity to respond the Word of God...
 - You say a faithful God... a God who watches over His children and guides their steps...
 - And this story is so important because the theme of Redemption is running through it...
 - God's plan to redeem people from sin and death... are in this story...
 - God brought Rebekah and Isaac together... for the purpose of blessing all nations...
- **You have an opportunity to give your life to Jesus today...**
- **You also have an opportunity to come to the altar and worship the Lord today...**
 - Maybe you need to ask for guidance... or forgiveness... or tell Him thank you for His faithfulness