

Providential Guidance

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Gen 24:10-22

Then 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. 11 And 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. 12 And he said, "O Lord, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham. 13 Behold, I am standing by the spring of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. 14 Let 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." 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. 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

The main point of this story is the providence, provision & sovereignty of God.

- Some people say this is an analogy of Abraham: Father, Isaac: Son, servant: Holy Spirit. But this breaks down frequently.
- This is the longest chapter in Genesis and is an example of a person seeking & finding the will of God.

It is a beautiful blend of passive & active faith. Gen 24:1-4, 10-11

- Abraham & his servant trusted in the Lord but did not sit in the tent praying for a wife for Isaac.
 - They drew reasonable conclusions & devised common sense, wise plans in obedience to God's word and then moved forward in faith.

After traveling 450 miles in a month, and praying along way, the servant set a test of character.

- This was not a fleece: he did not dictate to God what to do nor did he doubt what God had made clear. Gen 24:12-14
 - One Camel - 25 gals. X 10 = 250 gals w/3 gal. jar = 80-100 descents into the well. 90-120 minutes of hard labor.
- It required a woman who was not self-centered (root of most marriage conflicts), but who had a servant's heart to volunteer for a lowly & backbreaking task.

- The servant had a “stacked deck” against finding someone.

Use wisdom to find spouse of great worth IF God calls you to marriage.

- If you are already married, you’re married to right person. God is sovereign.

Who you marry is the 2nd most important decision in life... Guidelines from Gen 24:15-22

- Don’t worry about finding the right person, be the kind of godly person you want to marry.
 - Rebekah was not trying to impress, but simply living as she always did.
 - This friendly, hospitable, kind, humble, hardworking, godly woman was about to become integral part of God’s eternal plan of salvation.
- PATIENTLY LOOK in RIGHT PLACE for a GROWING BELIEVER with godly character qualities...”Christian” label is not enough.
 - Do not put yourself in a situation where romantic love can grow until you’re certain you want it to grow....this is completely contrary to the culture.
- Seek & listen to counsel of older and wiser Christians. Gen 24:50-52
 - It was clear to all that God providentially orchestrated these circumstances to confirm His will that Rebecca was to marry Isaac.

One of great promises of Scripture is God will guide us. Rom 8:14, Is 58:11a, Mt 6:33, Prov 3:5-6, 15:22, 12:15, 19:20-21, Ps 1:1-2, 48:14,

- Prayerfully ask Lord for direction & expect Him to give it.
 - By God’s grace, put aside your own will & seek God’s will otherwise all you really want is God’s approval of your plans.
- Trust & rest in God's promises & take action in obedience to God's word.
 - Get godly council, use reason & common sense, but don’t rule out miraculous.
 - Walk daily with Jesus; be committed to His purposes, pray BOLDLY throughout the process & He will guide you.
- Ultimately, this story & your story are all about God’s faithfulness, love, & sovereignty.