



Lesson 16 – The Marriage of Isaac

Based on Genesis 24

- 1) What did the very aged Abraham plan for his son Isaac?

Genesis 24:3 And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a _____ unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell:

Isaac was the one divinely appointed to succeed him as the keeper of the law of God and the father of the chosen people, but he was yet unmarried. The inhabitants of Canaan were given to idolatry, and God had forbidden intermarriage between His people and them, knowing that such marriages would lead to apostasy. The patriarch feared the effect of the corrupting influences surrounding his son. Abraham's habitual faith in God and submission to His will were reflected in the character of Isaac; but the young man's affections were strong, and he was gentle and yielding in disposition. If united with one who did not fear God, he would be in danger of sacrificing principle for the sake of harmony.

In ancient times marriage engagements were generally made by the parents, and this was the custom among those who worshiped God. None were required to marry those whom they could not love; but in the bestowal of their affections the youth were guided by the judgment of their experienced, God-fearing parents. It was regarded as a dishonor to parents, and even a crime, to pursue a course contrary to this.

- 2) Where was Abraham's servant to go to get a wife for Isaac?

Genesis 24:4 But thou shalt go unto _____, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.

He required this servant to make a solemn oath before the Lord, that he would not take a wife for Isaac of the Canaanites, but would choose a maiden from the family of Nahor in Mesopotamia. He charged him not to take Isaac thither. If a damsel could not be found who would leave her kindred, then the messenger would be released from his oath. The patriarch encouraged him in his difficult and delicate undertaking with the assurance that God would crown his mission with success.

- 3) What statement of faith did Abraham make to his servant?

Genesis 24:7 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 _____ will I give this land; he shall send his angel before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence.

- 4) What did he do?

Genesis 24:10-11 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 _____, unto the city of Nahor. 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 _____ go out to draw water.



The messenger set out without delay. Taking with him ten camels for the use of his own company and the bridal party that might return with him, provided also with gifts for the intended wife and her friends, he made the long journey beyond Damascus, and onward to the rich plains that border on the great river of the East. Arrived at Haran, “the city of Nahor.”

5) What did he pray?

Genesis 24:12-13 And he said, O LORD God of my master _____, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham.

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

Genesis 24:14 And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy _____, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy _____ 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.

It was a time of anxious thought with him. Important results, not only to his master’s household, but to future generations, might follow from the choice he made; and how was he to choose wisely among entire strangers? Remembering the words of Abraham, that God would send His angel with him, he prayed earnestly for positive guidance. In the family of his master, he was accustomed to the constant exercise of kindness and hospitality, and he now asked that an act of courtesy might indicate the maiden whom God had chosen.

6) Who came out for water?

Genesis 24:15-16 And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, _____ came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder. And the damsel was very _____ 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.

7) What did he ask of her?

Genesis 24:17 And the servant ran to meet her, and said, Let me, I pray thee, _____ a little water of thy pitcher.

8) Did she agree?

Genesis 24:18-20 And she said, _____, my lord: and she hasted, and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink. And when she had done giving him drink, she said, I will draw _____ for thy camels also, until they have done drinking. 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.

Hardly was the prayer uttered before the answer was given. Among the women who were gathered at the well, the courteous manners of one attracted his attention. As she came from the well, the stranger went to meet her, asking for some water from the pitcher upon her shoulder. The request received a kindly answer, with an offer to draw water for the camels also, a service which it was customary even for the daughters of princes to perform for their fathers’ flocks and herds. Thus, the desired sign was given.



9) What did he do next?

Genesis 24:22-23 And it came to pass, as the camels had done drinking, that the man took a golden _____ of half a shekel weight, and two _____ for her hands of ten shekels weight of gold; And said, Whose daughter art thou? tell me, I pray thee: is there room in thy father's house for us to _____ in?

Genesis 24:27 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 _____ me to the house of my master's brethren.

The man had asked for entertainment at her father's house, and in his expressions of thanksgiving had revealed the fact of his connection with Abraham. Returning home, the maiden told what had happened, and Laban, her brother, at once hastened to bring the stranger and his attendants to share their hospitality.

10) The servant explained all that happened, what did he ask?

Genesis 24:49 And now if ye will deal kindly and truly with my master, _____: and if not, tell me; that I may turn to the right hand, or to the left.

11) Laban replied:

Genesis 24:50-51 Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, The thing proceedeth from the _____: we cannot speak unto thee bad or good. Behold, Rebekah is before thee, _____ her, and go, and let her be thy master's son's wife, as the LORD hath spoken.

12) After securing Laban's blessing, what did Rebekah say?

Genesis 24:57-58 And they said, We will call the damsel, and enquire at her _____. And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I _____ go.

The servant, anticipating his master's joy at the success of his mission, was impatient to be gone; and with the morning they set out on the homeward journey. Abraham dwelt at Beersheba, and Isaac, who had been attending to the flocks in the adjoining country, had returned to his father's tent to await the arrival of the messenger from Haran.

13) How did the meeting go?

Genesis 24:63-64 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his _____, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming. And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she _____ off the camel.

Genesis 24:65-66 For she had said unto the servant, What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant had said, It is my _____: therefore she took a vail, and _____ herself. And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done.

14) What did the marriage ceremony entail?

Genesis 24:67 And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he _____ her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.



Abraham had marked the result of the intermarriage of those who feared God and those who feared Him not, from the days of Cain to his own time. The consequences of his own marriage with Hagar, and of the marriage connections of Ishmael and Lot, were before him. The lack of faith on the part of Abraham and Sarah had resulted in the birth of Ishmael, the mingling of the righteous seed with the ungodly. The father's influence upon his son was counteracted by that of the mother's idolatrous kindred and by Ishmael's connection with heathen wives. The jealousy of Hagar, and of the wives whom she chose for Ishmael, surrounded his family with a barrier that Abraham endeavored in vain to overcome.

15) What did God say about Ishmael?

Genesis 16:12 And he will be a _____ man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.

Abraham's early teachings had not been without effect upon Ishmael, but the influence of his wives resulted in establishing idolatry in his family. Separated from his father and embittered by the strife and contention of a home destitute of the love and fear of God, Ishmael was driven to choose the wild, marauding life of the desert chief.

In his latter days he repented of his evil ways and returned to his father's God, but the stamp of character given to his posterity remained. The powerful nation descended from him were a turbulent, heathen people, who were ever an annoyance and affliction to the descendants of Isaac.

16) What question does the Bible pose?

Amos 3:3 Can _____ walk together, except they be agreed?

The happiness and prosperity of the marriage relation depends upon the unity of the parties; but between the believer and the unbeliever there is a radical difference of tastes, inclinations, and purposes. They are serving two masters, between whom there can be no concord. However pure and correct one's principles may be, the influence of an unbelieving companion will have a tendency to lead away from God.

17) What advice is given in the New Testament?

2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not _____ yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

He who has entered the marriage relation while unconverted, is by his conversion placed under stronger obligation to be faithful to his companion, however widely they may differ in regard to religious faith; **yet the claims of God should be placed above every earthly relationship, even though trials and persecution may be the result.** With the spirit of love and meekness, this fidelity may have an influence to win the unbelieving one.

If there is any subject which should be carefully considered and in which the counsel of older and more experienced persons should be sought, it is the subject of marriage; if ever the Bible was needed as a counselor, if ever divine guidance should be sought in prayer, it is before taking a step that binds persons together for life.

Can you see God wants us to be happy?

Would you like to have the peace that God intended for you?

When is the time to do what you know is right?