

GENESIS 24:12-14 "A BRIDE FOR ISAAC"

8/19/17 Sat Morn Prayer – Phil Twente, ptwente@gmail.com

"The Church's One Foundation" – S. J. Stone – sung by Maranatha Promise Band

1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord; she is His new creation by water and the Word.
From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride; with His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.
2 Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth; her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy Name she blesses, partakes one holy food, and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.
3 Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war, she waits the consummation of peace forevermore,
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest, and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
4 Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One, and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

Abraham's Example of Dedication - At this point, Abraham is 140 years old (see Gen. 25:20; 21:5). Sarah has been dead for three years. God has blessed him spiritually and materially, but **he wants to be sure that the right bride is chosen for Isaac**. We see here a picture of the Heavenly Father choosing a bride (the church) for His Son (Christ). **How did Abraham know that God would provide the right woman for his son? He trusted the promises of God! Isaac was God's possession.** Abraham had laid him on the altar years before, and **he knew that God would supply the need. Otherwise, the promised seed could never be born.**

The woman must come from within the family of God; she must **not be one of the heathen** women. No doubt there were many beautiful and talented Canaanite women who would have gladly married Isaac and shared his wealth, but this was against God's will. **We need to emphasize it today. "Only in the Lord"** is the admonition of 2 Cor. 6:14-18. It is tragic when parents push their children to marry "into society" and out of the blessing of the Lord! **Abraham would rather his son remain single than go back to Ur for a wife, or take a wife from the Canaanite nations.**

Gen 24:12 Then he said, "O LORD God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham.

O LORD God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day: The servant appears **worthy of the master he served**. He **resolves to follow the leading of the LORD**. While he shows good sense in the tokens he fixes upon of determining the temperament and character of the future bride, **he never doubts but that God will direct him**. Essentially, Eliezer asks God to guide through providential circumstances, which is not always a bad way to discern God's will.

- Circumstances alone can be a dangerous way to discern God's will. **We have a way of ignoring circumstances which speak against what we want (or attributing them to the devil), while focusing on the circumstances that speak for what we want.** But in this case, **Eliezer establishes what he will look for before anything happens. He's not making up the rules as he goes along.** He did not **give himself blindly up to first impressions**, however, but **tested the circumstances**.
- Now here is a man expecting God to work. **He does not say to himself, "The whole job is up to me"**. I've got to find this girl, and how am I going to find the right one? And after that, I must persuade her to come. How am I going to do that?" It is very **simple for this man because he knows he is not left alone to do this task**. An invisible partner is at work, preparing the way for him.
- I wish we would learn this lesson about our own witness. **God has not left it to us to do alone**. The work of **reaching men and women for Christ is not a matter of human persuasion, but is a divine call**. God is at work to move, shape, and develop the lives and hearts of all. **Our job is simply to recognize this**.
- Notice how Abraham's servant does it? **First of all, he prays, revealing his expectation that God is at work**. In **his simple prayer he asks God to make the way clear, to indicate the one to whom God would have him speak**. As he **prays about his problem, he expects God to answer**.
- This is a wonderful concept to remember when witnessing. When I get aboard a plane or train or go someplace where I may be in contact with someone who doesn't know the Lord, I **ask God to indicate who is the one he wants me to talk with**. Maybe there is no one; maybe the Lord wants me to spend my time reading or studying. But very likely he does have someone. I don't know who God is working with, but I know that He will direct me through ways of which I am hardly conscious.

Gen 24:13 Behold, here I stand by the well of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water.

Eliezer is wishing, hoping, and expecting that something would turn out that would direct and instruct what further to do, and that would lead on to the business he came about. The **daughters of the men of the city came out to draw water**;

which was the usual custom in those parts about that time. This was a principal reason why Abraham's servant stopped at the well, not only to refresh himself, his men, and his cattle, but **in hopes he should meet with the young woman there he had come for**; or at least **should hear of her**, or **meet with some one or another that would direct him to her**; or something would fall out there that would be a means of the LORD of bringing about what he was sent to do.

Gen 24:14 *Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say, 'Please let down your pitcher that I may drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink'—*

Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink: Eliezer was **wise enough to ask for a sign that was remarkable**, but (in human terms) possible. He didn't tempt God by asking for fire to fall from heaven or for protection as he leapt from the pinnacle of the temple.

let her be the one

Let her be the one: In praying this prayer, there is a sense in which Eliezer increase the odds against finding someone. **It would take a remarkable woman to volunteer for this tedious task.**

- Considering that a camel may drink up to 20 gallons, watering ten camels meant **at least an hour of hard work.**

You have appointed for Your servant Isaac. And by this I will know that You have shown kindness to my master."

By this I will know: Eliezer was moved by God's spirit sought assurance by a sign, as to whether or not God would prosper his journey. He probably cared more about finding a woman of character rather than what she looked like. He wanted a woman of character, a woman whom God has chosen. The three qualifications, then, in the mind of the Eliezer, the faithful servant, for a bride for his master's son, are **a pleasing exterior, a kindly disposition, and the approval of God.**

SUMMARY:

- When doing any task, especially significant ones, do you usually think it all depends on you?
- Consider witnessing, do you look at it as it being all on you?
- Do you wait for the Lord to open the door and prepare the way? Is your first step prayer?
- Do you pray with specificity and for success in seeing God's will being done?
- Are you simply His faithful servant, ready to proceed when He opens any door?
- Do you see Abraham's faithfulness and firmness in depending on the Lord for success in this matter?
- How do you see Eliezer's faithfulness? "*By this I will know*"!
- We need to remember the faithfulness of Abraham and Eliezer, their preparation, and the trusting and proceeding in following the guidance and provision of the Lord!

Pray Today For: Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Ct. Justices: John Roberts, Jr., Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Ruth Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Neil Gorsuch; President & V.P.: Donald & Melania Trump; Mike & Karen Pence. General James Kelly. The Cabinet and all advisors. Appointee - Christopher Wray, F.B.I.

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