

Genesis 24 - Lesson 34

The Marriage of Isaac and Rebekah

1. Who to Marry - Gen 24:1-9

- a. The first time we see matchmaking in the Bible, and it is a love story - 24:67
- b. It is important to understand the dispensational place of this chapter.
- c. 24:1 - Abraham has been blessed according to God's promises to him - Gen 12
- d. "*ruled over all that he had*" - Gal 4:1-3, Isaac is the heir. Rebekah is the appointment.
 - i. The parents are laying up the inheritance for the children here - 2 Cor 12:14
- e. "*not take a wife...*" - why? He knew the land would not be theirs. International marriages were forbidden because of their religion, of the promises, not racism.
 - i. 24:5-8 - God is directly involved in keeping the promise with Isaac
 - ii. Dispensations affect who you choose - 1 Cor 7:39, Gal 3:28, Col 3:11

2. How to Find a Wife - 24:10-28

- a. God will not send angels to pick your spouse. You must find one.
- b. The first time we see praying for guidance and it is for a spouse.
- c. "*that thou hast appointed*" - Not every spouse in the Bible is a godsend. Matt 19:6
 - i. He prays according to the promise, asking for a sign, which was his right.
 - ii. There are other places this happens for Israel-John 14:13-14, 15:7, Matt 21:22
 - iii. You know not what you should pray for without a covenant - Rom 8:26
 - iv. Your choice of spouse will not affect God's offer of salvation to the world.
- d. Rebekah is fair, kind, hard worker, etc, but the issue here is the promise.
 - i. The servant, Isaac, Abraham know nothing of this woman, except...
- e. 24:27 - "*hath led me*" - mercy and truth is the promise, you have no such promise.

3. How to Make the Right Choice - 24:29-67

- a. Myths: A prince for every princess, a perfect one for me, made for each other
- b. Marriage can be a wonderful thing; it can also be a disaster if you require the other to change, think it will go according to "plan", or that it will solve your problems.
- c. Talk to your family: arranged marriages were about inheritance, not control.
- d. 24:8 - "*if she be not willing*" - Notice Rebekah's choice in all this - 24:57-58
- e. ObeY God's will: 24:50 - For Becky it was divine appointment by angel, not for you
- f. You do not have a soul mate picked by God - marriage is picked by God -Pro 18:22
- g. Be persuaded in your own mind: Gen 24:29-30; 24:36; 24:52-58
- h. Choose to love them - 24:67. Love is a product of marriage, not the reason. Eph 5

4. Is this a type of the church?

- a. Some see this chapter as a type of the church, but only if the church is the bride.
- b. Abe is a type of the father, Isaac a type of Christ, the servant a type of the Spirit.
- c. BUT... the mystery church is not found in the OT (Eph 3:4-6)
- d. Abraham sends his servant to a small remnant who is in God's chosen family
- e. Gen 24:67 - John 3:29,14:3, 18, 26, 16:13 - appointed bride is Israel, not the church

Seven Principles for a God Glorifying Marriage

- 1. Let Christ have the preeminence in all things – Col 1:18**
 - a. Grow up into him – Eph 4:15
- 2. Depend on God's word as the final authority – Rom 10:17**
 - a. Read it and practice it in your marriage which is your primary ministry
- 3. Reckon the old man dead – Rom 6:11**
 - a. Your old man, but also your spouse's old man.
 - b. See them as they are in Christ.
- 4. Put on your new man daily – Eph 4:11, 2 Cor 4:16**
 - a. Your life is not your own any more – 1 Cor 6:19-20
 - b. You are Christ's, and now a husband and a wife. Take responsibility.
- 5. Mind the things of the Spirit – Rom 8:3-6**
 - a. When you mind the things of the flesh, you will never be content
 - b. In the Spirit you can have life, peace, contentment – Phil 4:7-9
- 6. Have a common purpose for your life – Eph 5:16, Phil 2:2-4**
 - a. When you work together, you can grow together
 - b. Have the same mind and be in unity on how to live (one must submit)
- 7. Don't argue about the other's responsibility / position**
 - a. Work on yourself first and last
 - b. Don't count your good works, and their mistakes
 - c. Do consider your mistakes, and their good works
 - d. Be gracious toward the other, giving God the priority in serving them

The first 5 principles are a product of personal and family Bible study and prayer.
These need to be implemented regularly in your marriage.

#6 requires regular table talks with your spouse about your future, goals, and what you value most in life.

#7 is to prevent arguments, resentment, and bitterness