

51.

The Servant Explained Why He had Come

In our last topic, we saw that we want to show our physical and spiritual children learn the importance of carrying out the will of God in our own lives. The servant of Abraham had shown his desire to carry out the will of Abraham by saying that he would not even eat until he had told the family of Rebekah why he had come. In this topic, we will see what the servant told the family of Rebekah.

First, the servant told the family why Abraham had sent him. Genesis 24:34-41 says, “So he said, “I *am* Abraham’s servant. The Lord has blessed my master greatly, and he has become great; and He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female servants, and camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master’s wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and to him he has given all that he has. Now my master made me swear, saying, “You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell; but you shall go to my father’s house and to my family, and take a wife for my son.” And I said to my master, “Perhaps the woman will not follow me.” But he said to me, “The Lord, before whom I walk, will send His angel with you and prosper your way; and you shall take a wife for my son from my family and from my father’s house. You will be clear from this oath when you arrive among my family; for if they will not give *her* to you, then you will be released from my oath.”” We see that the servant began by talking about his master.

The servant identified himself as the servant of Abraham. Then, he told them how the Lord had worked in the life of Abraham since Abraham had left that area more than sixty years earlier. The Lord had blessed Abraham in many ways over those years. He had become great in the sight of both God and the people in the area where he lived. The Lord had blessed him with flocks and herds. The Lord had blessed him with riches of silver and gold. This blessing also included both male and female servants. The Lord had given him camels and donkeys. Here, we see that the Lord had blessed him with riches. However, that was not the important thing in the life of Abraham.

The most important thing the Lord had done for Abraham was to give him and Sarah a son in their old age. Abraham had not kept the riches for himself but had passed them all on to his son. The servant went on to tell the family of Rebekah that the purpose of his trip to their city was to get a wife for Isaac. The servant said that Abraham had told him not to get a wife from among the Canaanites. God had told Abraham, in Genesis 15:16, ““But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites *is* not yet complete.”” The Amorites and the other descendants of Canaan had not followed the Lord but had become very sinful. We saw how the people of the land had destroyed the testimony of Lot, even though Peter tells us in 2 Peter that Lot was a righteous man (one who was right with God). Then, the servant said that was why Abraham had sent him to the city of Nahor. He had come to get a wife for Isaac. The servant had told Abraham that the woman might not want to go with him. Abraham had told him that the Lord would send an angel before him and prosper his way and provide a wife from his father’s house. Otherwise, he would be released from the oath that Abraham had asked him to make. The servant was looking for God to lead him to the woman that God had appointed for the wife of Isaac.

Second, the servant told the family what he had prayed at the well. Genesis 24:42-44 says, ““And this day I came to the well and said, “O Lord God of my master Abraham, if You will now prosper the way in which I go, behold, I stand by the well of water; and it shall come topass that when the virgin comes out to draw *water*, and I say to her, ‘Please give me a little water from your pitcher to drink,’ and she says to me, ‘Drink, and I will draw for your camels also,’—*let her be* the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master’s son.””” The servant told the family exactly what he had prayed as he stood by the well. First, he had made his request to the Lord. In this request, he made it clear that he prayed to the Lord God who was the God that Abraham already had served who had led him to depart from Nahor to the land of Canaan. The servant had asked God to prosper him in his mission as he stood by the well.

He also told the family that he had been very specific in his request to the Lord. The servant knew that the daughters of all of the men of the city would be coming out to the well to draw water for their families. As a result, he prayed that the woman to whom the Lord would lead him would be the young woman that the Lord wanted to be the wife of Isaac. The servant wanted the family to know that the Lord was the One who had led him to Rebekah to make his request for a drink of water. However, to make it even clearer that she was the one who the Lord had for Isaac, he prayed that she would give a specific response. That response was in addition to just giving him a drink of water. The servant said he had prayed that the woman would respond, “Drink, and I will draw for your camels also.” This response required much more than just giving the servant a drink of water because it meant that the young woman had to make a specific response.

The servant told the family that the young woman who volunteered to water his camels would be the way that God would show clearly that she was to be the woman whom the Lord had appointed to become the wife for his master’s son. Then, the servant told the family how Rebekah had answered his prayer. Genesis 24:45-49 says, ““But before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah, coming out with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down to the well and drew *water*. And I said to her, “Please let me drink.” And she made haste and let her pitcher down from her *shoulder*, and said, “Drink, and I will give your camels a drink also.” So I drank, and she gave the camels a drink also. Then I asked her, and said, “Whose daughter *are* you?” And she said, “The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him.” So I put the nose ring on her nose and the bracelets on her wrists. And I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord, and blessed the Lord God of my master Abraham, who had led me in the way of truth to take the daughter of my master’s brother for his son. Now if you will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me. And if not, tell me, that I may turn to the right hand or to the left.”” Then, the servant told the family one more key point. He said that before he finished speaking the prayer in his heart, Rebekah had come out carrying a pitcher.

Here, we see that the prayer was in his heart and was not a prayer that was spoken with a voice that could be heard by another person. The servant may not have understood the various ministries of the Holy Spirit, but Romans 8:26-27 says, “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit *is*, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.” This prayer in the heart of the servant was according to the will of God.

The servant then said that Rebekah had done exactly as he had prayed. She gave the servant a drink and also drew water for all of the camels so they could drink. The servant said that his next question was, “Whose daughter are you?” Here, we see that the servant wanted to find out if the Lord had

led him to the right family. Rebekah told the servant that she was the daughter of Bethuel and the granddaughter of Nahor. When the servant heard this information, he knew that the Lord had led him to the right family. Then, the servant told the family about his response when he found out that Rebekah was from the family of Nahor. He immediately put a gold nose ring in her nose and two gold bracelets on her wrists.

Before doing anything else, the servant said that he bowed his head and worshiped the Lord. Here, we are reminded that prayer is one of the ways that we worship God. The servant said that he blessed the Lord God of his master, Abraham. He recognized that it was totally the work of God to lead him in the way of truth. The word translated “truth” is most frequently used in the book of Psalms. Psalm 19:9 says, “The fear of the Lord *is* clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord *are* true *and* righteous altogether.” In this verse, the word talks about the judgments of the Lord and says that they are true. Then, Psalm 119:160 adds, “The entirety of Your word *is* truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments *endures* forever.” Here, we see the entire Word of God is truth. As we look at these verses, we see that in his worship, the servant made it clear that the Word of God is truth and that the Lord had led him by that truth.

As a result, the next statement of the servant was a marriage proposal for Rebekah from Abraham on behalf of Isaac, his son. The answer to this question was certain to have a major effect on the family of Abraham throughout the rest of the history of his descendants. The servant wanted to know if the family, and Rebekah, would respond with the same attitude toward the truth of the Word of God or if he needed to turn to the right or the left to seek some other relative from among the other descendants of Nahor. The very first principle God established for Adam is given in Genesis 2:24, where we read, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” This was not a principle for Adam and Eve because they had no father or mother to leave. However, it was a principle for all of their descendants. Her family, along with Rebekah, had to decide if they were going to allow Rebekah to leave their family, knowing that they probably would not see her again on this earth. We will see in the next topic how they decided this question. Here, we see that we want to teach our physical and spiritual children the importance of understanding and applying this principle in their own lives as they think about marriage. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to apply this principle in their lives.