

=THE HOLY SPIRIT=

Lesson 4

Genesis 24 (Part one)

INTRODUCTION: We come to a most beautiful chapter in the Bible. Abraham sends a servant to choose a bride for his son, Isaac. Abraham did not want a bride to be chosen from the Canaanites for Isaac. Hence, he called the eldest servant of his house to go back to his own country and there choose a bride for Isaac. The story unfolds beautifully in this chapter.

I. THE TYPOLOGY OF THE STORY.

1. Abraham here is a type of God the Father. Genesis 24:2, “And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh.”
2. The servant is a type of the Holy Spirit. 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 wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell.”
3. The bride (Rebekah) is a type of all Christians. We Christians are the called-out bride of the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. The far country is a type of the world. Genesis 24:4, “But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son, Isaac.”
5. The son (Isaac) is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence, Abraham (God the Father) sends the servant (Holy Spirit) to a far country (the world) to seek a bride (Christians) for his son (Jesus). Here is a beautiful type of the Lord Jesus Christ and His own people who are called His bride.

II. THE MIRACLE.

1. God sent an angel before the 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 seed will I give this land; he shall send his angel before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence.”
2. A miracle was asked for and received. Genesis 24:14, “And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels 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.” The servant, not knowing how to choose the bride or which young lady would be the bride, made a covenant with God. He asked the Lord to let it come to pass that the young lady to whom the servant said, “Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink,” would respond by saying, “Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also.” By this, the servant would know she was to be the one. So the servant went to the far country. When he came to a certain place, he saw Rebekah. He asked her for a drink of water, and she asked if she could give his camels drink also. Hence, he knew this was the right one. This may seem like a little thing to a person who does not know much about the East. Camels drink water by the gallon, and all the water that this young lady could give the camels she had to carry on her head from a stream or a well. It was a long, taxing exercise. Nevertheless, the miracle took place, and the servant found the right young lady!

III. THE GIFTS. This is interesting. When the servant came to Rebekah and found her, he gave her a golden earring and two bracelets. Genesis 24:22, “And it came to pass, as the camels had done drinking, that the man took a golden earring of half a shekel weight, and two bracelets for her hands of ten shekels weight of gold.” Notice the perfect order here: the earring for the ear and the bracelets for the hands. Bear in mind, this story typifies the carrying of the Gospel by the Holy Spirit to the world. The earring represents the fact that a person is saved by hearing the Word of God. Romans 10:17, “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” The bracelets for the hands represent the fact that the Gospel is received. First we hear (earrings); then we take (bracelets for the hands).

The servant did not go into the far country to pass out earrings and bracelets; he went to get the bride. He could have become so enchanted with the passing out of earrings and bracelets that he would forget the real purpose for his going. His purpose was to get the bride! This is the purpose for the Holy Spirit. Primarily, the Holy Spirit is not to give gifts, but to get the bride. The giving of the gift is only an asset

with which to get the bride. There are so many people who get the gifts of the Spirit as an end and not as a means. Yes, the Spirit does give us gifts, as listed in I Corinthians 12:8-10, “For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues.” However, these gifts are means to an end and are not needed, and are not necessary, nor even Scriptural, if they do not aid us in soul winning. Soul winning is the big thing. The big job of the church is soul winning. The big job of the preacher is soul winning. The big job of every Christian is soul winning. Hence, the gifts are aids to soul winning. One who is not soul winning does not have the Scriptural gifts.

Rebekah decided to go with the servant—a picture of an unsaved person deciding to receive Christ as he is wooed by the Holy Spirit.

- IV. THE GIFTS FOR HER FAMILY. Genesis 24:53, “And the servant brought forth jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment, and gave them to Rebekah: he gave also to her brother and to her mother precious things.” Here is an interesting thing. As soon as Rebekah had accepted the servant’s proposal to go back to Isaac, her family started receiving blessings also. When a person becomes a Christian, all the folks around him get blessed. It is better for everyone within his sphere of influence.
- V. THE PRESSING FOR A DECISION. Genesis 24:56, “And he said unto them, Hinder me not, seeing the LORD hath prospered my way; send me away that I may go to my master.” Notice the Holy Spirit is interested in salvation **now**. The servant said, “Hinder me not, seeing that the LORD hath prepared my way; send me away that I may go to my master.” The servant was saying, “Let us go **now**.” Tomorrow is not the time; today is the time. The Holy Spirit wants us to do His will **now**. He wants us to be saved **now**. He wants us to do **now** what He has led us to do and called us to do.

So Rebekah and the servant leave to go to Isaac—a picture of salvation and our journey toward Heaven.

- VI. THE JOURNEY. Genesis 24:58, 59, “And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go. And they sent away Rebekah their sister, and her nurse, and Abraham’s servant, and his men.” This is interesting. She had decided to marry Isaac. (This is conversion.) She is going to meet Isaac, but she has someone to lead her, even the servant. Here is a picture of the Christian after he has received Christ. He is not left alone; but he is led by the Holy Spirit as he journeys toward Heaven. No doubt the servant said to Rebekah, “Now stay close to me. Follow me. Do not go your own way. Go my way.” The Holy Spirit says the same thing to the believer.

Perhaps some days they were on mountaintops, and other days they were in low valleys. Perhaps some days the sun was shining, and other days the clouds were hanging low, but it was her job to follow the servant. He alone knew the way. Tragedy would be hers if she did not follow him. The same is true of the Christian. Some days we will be on mountaintops; some days, in valleys. Some days the sun will be shining and some days the clouds will be hanging low. We must, however, follow the Holy Spirit and His leadership. Notice Genesis 24:61, “And Rebekah arose, and her damsels, and they rode upon the camels, and followed the man: and the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.”

- VII. THE MEETING. Genesis 24:65, “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 master: therefore she took a vail, and covered herself.” The servant took Rebekah to Isaac. When she saw Isaac, she left the servant and ran to Isaac. Here is a beautiful picture of the Holy Spirit taking us to the Lord Jesus at the rapture when we meet Him in the air.
- VIII. THE MARRIAGE. Genesis 24:67, “And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.”

CONCLUSION: There is no story in the Bible that more beautifully pictures the plan of salvation than does this one. (Teacher, show the plan of salvation very carefully to every pupil. Lead those to Christ who need to be saved.)