

Genesis 23-24 – A Wife for Isaac

Trust God's Word

Section 1: Genesis 23 – All In

¹⁹After this, Abraham buried his wife Sarah in the cave of the field at Machpelah near Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan. ²⁰The field with its cave passed from the Hethites to Abraham as burial property.

We are seeing Abraham trust God's Word by living in the land of promise.

Section 2: 24:1-9 – Moving Forward: Trusting the Promise of God

⁶Abraham answered him, "Make sure that you don't take my son back there. ⁷The Lord, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from my native land, who spoke to me and swore to me, 'I will give this land to your offspring'—he will send his angel before you, and you can take a wife for my son from there. ⁸If the woman is unwilling to follow you, then you are free from this oath to me, but don't let my son go back there." ⁹So the servant placed his hand under his master Abraham's thigh and swore an oath to him concerning this matter.

We are seeing Abraham trust God's Word by keeping his son in the promise land.

Section 3: 24:10-27 – God's Faithfulness Revealed

¹⁰The servant took ten of his master's camels, and with all kinds of his master's goods in hand, he went to Aram-naharaim, to Nahor's town. ¹¹At evening, the time when women went out to draw water, he made the camels kneel beside a well outside the town.

¹²"Lord, God of my master Abraham," he prayed, "make this happen for me today, and show kindness to my master Abraham.

¹⁵Before he had finished speaking, there was Rebekah—daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah, the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor—coming with a jug on her shoulder. ¹⁶Now the girl was very beautiful, a virgin—no man had been intimate with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jug, and came up. ¹⁷Then the servant ran to meet her and said, "Please let me have a little water from your jug."

God is always faithful. The servant of Abraham experiences God's faithfulness and he responded with worship. I believe this a learned behavior. For decades this servant has watched God's faithfulness to Abraham and Abraham respond with worship and now we see him worshipping as well.

In this section of Scripture, we finally see Abraham's patient obedience at work. He understands that his son must stay in the land but that he also needs a bride that isn't pagan. Abraham could have hurried and got Isaac a wife from Canaan, but we don't see him rush like we saw him do with Hagar.

We are seeing Abraham and his servant trust God's Word by going to seek a godly wife for Isaac.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ What does it mean to "trust God's Word"?
- ❖ Is repentance optional for the believer?
- ❖ In what ways does repentance differ from guilt, remorse and sorrow?
- ❖ What are some examples of repentance we are seeing in Abraham's life?
- ❖ How do your actions show that you trust God's Word?

Section 4: 24:28-54 – The Lord Reigns

⁵⁰ Laban and Bethuel answered, “This is from the Lord; we have no choice in the matter. ⁵¹ Rebekah is here in front of you. Take her and go, and let her be a wife for your master’s son, just as the Lord has spoken.”

Bethuel and Laban understand that following the Word of God is not optional. We have no choice if we desire to live a life for God’s glory. We are never justified in reasoning away, changing or ignoring parts of God’s Word.

We are seeing Laban and Bethuel trust God’s Word by submitting to sending Rebekah to Isaac.

Section 5: 24:55-61 – Rebekah’s Faith and Trust in the Lord

⁵⁸ They called Rebekah and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She replied, “I will go.” ⁵⁹ So they sent away their sister Rebekah with the one who had nursed and raised her, and Abraham’s servant and his men.

Talk about a step of faith on Rebekah’s behalf. God called...she went. This call to go by the Lord is a very similar to the call Abraham had experienced. Get up and go...and she went.

Rebekah’s willingness to follow God in this moment can’t be overlooked. Sometimes God will give you strange instructions that may not make total logical sense. Sometimes God will call you to live a life completely different than the culture. Obedience to God’s Word is not dependent upon our abilities, understanding or common sense. God calls...we respond.

We are seeing Rebekah trust God’s Word by leaving her life behind to become Isaac’s wife.

Section 6: 24:62-67 – Isaac Loved Her

⁶⁷ And Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah and took Rebekah to be his wife. Isaac loved her, and he was comforted after his mother’s death.

Men...the first characteristic you should look for in a woman is faithfulness to God. Women...the first characteristic you should look for in a man is faithfulness to God. I’m saddened by the number of professing Christians that completely ignore someone’s walk with the Lord when seeking a spouse. Interest, hobbies, passions, looks, money, job, stuff...seems to matter far more to Christians today than godliness. It’s shameful.

We must learn to trust God’s Word when choosing who we join with in life. God’s Word should be our number one source of wisdom when choosing a spouse.

If that man isn’t seeking after the Lord with all his heart...don’t even give him the first date. If that woman isn’t seeking after the Lord with all her heart...don’t even give her the first date.

Those of us who are married...don’t expect to have a marriage that honors the Lord if you are not seeking after the Lord with all your heart.

We are seeing Isaac trust God’s Word by taking Rebekah as his wife.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Is following God’s Word optional? Why or why not?
- ❖ How does Rebekah’s faith challenge you to be more faithful?
- ❖ Are you submitting to the Word of God to have better relationships or are you submitting to your own preferences and passions?