

Genesis 24: Finding the Right Spouse

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Abraham did many great works of faith in His life. Genesis 24 records his last work. He knew that for the seed promise to be fulfilled, Isaac needed a wife. So he commissioned his faithful servant to find that wife for him. He sent him back to the land of his father, and there the servant found Rebekah. She returned, and became the wife of Isaac. There are some important lessons to learn about finding the right spouse in this record.

1. Importance of finding the right spouse

Abraham knew how important it was for Isaac to find the right spouse. God has said that it is not good to be alone (Gen. 2) and that if a man finds a good wife, he is blessed (Prov. 31). This is important, and Abraham took this endeavor seriously.

2. Don't look in the wrong places for your spouse

Abraham feared that Isaac would take a wife from the Canaanites. Later we see Esau do this, to his families consternation. Canaan could be seen as the world; we ought not to look for the right spouse in the world.

3. Trust God that He will help

The servant was charged with something quite serious, and we see his concern in fulfilling this command. Abraham reassured him by telling him that God would be part of this. We are told that we are permitted to pray for things within the will of God. God's will is that we are married with the purpose and intent of having godly homes (Mal. 2:15). We need to learn to trust God and wait on the Lord.

4. Make sure you have something good to offer

Abraham's servant took a great deal of wealth to offer for this marriage. We need to have something to offer someone else to become our spouse. A man needs to have a profession and a way to support a home (Prov. 24:27). A woman needs to prepare herself as a help meet compatible to the man she seeks; she needs to be spiritual competent to be the guardian of the home (Tit. 2:5).

5. Know the right place to look

It is not enough to know the wrong place to look (see point 2), but there needed to be direction and effort in getting to the correct place. We will only find spiritual people in spiritual places.

6. The right person is not afraid to work

What made Rebekah stand out was her willingness to work. Marriage is work; it is a constant effort and sacrifice. Perhaps in this single deed her most valuable assets were revealed.

7. Be kind – your future could be at a camel trough

Clearly Abraham's servant was not the man she meant to marry. But Rebekah was kind to him without thinking of a return for that kindness. For this she became a kind of queen. Always be kind; you may be looking at your future in an indirect way.

The remaining part of the story speaks of Rebekah leaving her home to join her husband (consider Gen. 2:24). She would now join the greatest story in history, and become a vessel of the seed promise. Her brothers rightly said of her as she left: *"Our sister, may you come to be thousands of myriads, and may your offspring inherit the gate of its foes."*