

The Servant was Received by the Family of Abraham

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain how the Lord works in the hearts of people to prepare them to answer our prayers or the prayers of others. In this topic, we will see that the servant was invited to spend the night with the family of Rebekah.

We saw that the servant had watched with amazement as he saw how God answered his prayer. Now, we are going to see that the servant asked Rebekah what family she belonged to and if there was room for him to stay at the house of her family. In Genesis 24:22-25, we read, “So it was, when the camels had finished drinking, that the man took a golden nose ring weighing half a shekel, and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten *shekels* of gold, and said, ‘Whose daughter *are* you? Tell me, please, is there room *in* your father’s house for us to lodge?’ So she said to him, ‘I *am* the daughter of Bethuel, Milcah’s son, whom she bore to Nahor.’ Moreover she said to him, ‘We have both straw and feed enough, and room to lodge.’” We see what happened when all of the camels had finished drinking water and their thirst was satisfied.

We see that when the camels were finished drinking, the servant gave Rebekah a gift. That gift included a golden nose ring and two bracelets for her wrists. We saw in our last topic that a shekel was a weight of about half an ounce. As a result, the nose ring was about a quarter of an ounce of gold. The two bracelets contained about five ounces of gold. This would be valued at several thousand dollars today, so this was a rather expensive gift the servant gave to Rebekah. Then, the servant asked Rebekah two questions. First, he asked her from what family she came, Second, he asked if there was room in the house of her father for the servant and the other servants with him to stay that night. We see how Rebekah answered both questions.

First, she told them about her family. She said that she was the daughter of Bethuel. Then, she added that Bethuel was a son of Nahor and Milcah. Abraham had been told, in Genesis 22:20-24, “Now it came to pass after these things that it was told Abraham, saying, ‘Indeed Milcah also has borne children to your brother Nahor: Huz his firstborn, Buz his brother, Kemuel the father of Aram, Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel.’ And Bethuel begot Rebekah. These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham’s brother. His concubine, whose name was Reumah, also bore Tebah, Gaham, Thahash, and Maachah.” Abraham had learned that his brother, Nahor, had twelve children. Eight of these had been born to his wife and then his concubine had given birth to four additional children.

Second, Rebekah told the servant that her father had room for the servants of Abraham to stay at their house. She said that this included plenty of straw and feed for the camels. We see how the servant responded to the two questions that Rebekah had answered. Genesis 24:26-28 says, “Then the man bowed down his head and worshiped the Lord. And he said, ‘Blessed *be* the Lord God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His mercy and His truth toward my master. As for me, being on the way, the Lord led me to the house of my master’s brethren.’ So the young woman ran and told her mother’s household these things.” We see that the very first thing that the servant did was bow down his head and worship the Lord.

The word translated “worshiped” means *to bow down or bow before God in worship*. This is a key word to understand as many people do not understand what it means to worship. This means that true worship recognizes the greatness of God and the fact that He is the One who has all authority over our lives. John 4:23-24 says, “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” Here, we see that we are to worship God in our spirit, and we are to worship Him according to truth. We see that the servant showed that he was bowing his head and heart before God by the words that he spoke as he prayed.

First, the servant worshiped by describing some things about the character of God. He realized, first of all, that He was the Lord God of his master and that all blessing belonged to Him. Second, the servant recognized that God is a God of mercy. Psalm 103:11-12 says, “For as the heavens are high above the earth, *so* great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, *so* far has He removed our transgressions from us.” These verses show us that the mercy of God is great to all those who fear and reverence Him. The verses also show that His mercy is revealed by the fact that He removed our sins as far as the east is from the west. Third, the servant recognized that God is a God of truth. We see that God’s truth extends forever. Psalm 146:5-6 says, “Happy *is he* who *has* the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope *is* in the Lord his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that *is* in them; who keeps truth forever.”

Second, the servant worshiped the Lord for the way that the Lord had led him. The word translated “way” means *the road, journey or way*. The servant had traveled more than four hundred and fifty miles. In addition to leading the servant to the right city, the servant said that the Lord had led him to the house of his master’s brethren. God had worked in such a way that the first person the servant met when he came to the city was the very woman that God had planned to be the wife of Isaac. This is a reminder of the fact that we can always depend on the Lord to lead us. The Lord promises, in Proverbs 3:5-6, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” He will always lead us to the path that He has prepared for us as we follow Him instead of depending on our own wisdom.

When the servant had worshiped the Lord, Rebekah ran to tell her family about all that had happened while she was at the well. Genesis 24:29-33 goes on to say, “Now Rebekah had a brother whose name *was* Laban, and Laban ran out to the man by the well. So it came to pass, when he saw the nose ring, and the bracelets on his sister’s wrists, and when he heard the words of his sister Rebekah, saying, ‘Thus the man spoke to me,’ that he went to the man. And there he stood by the camels at the well. And he said, ‘Come in, O blessed of the Lord! Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house, and a place for the camels.’ Then the man came to the house. And he unloaded the camels, and provided straw and feed for the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who *were* with him. *Food* was set before him to eat, but he said, ‘I will not eat until I have told about my errand.’ And he said, ‘Speak on.’”

Laban, the brother of Rebekah, ran out to the servant who was still standing by the well. From what we learn later in the book of Genesis, he did not have the same attitude as Rebekah but was looking out for himself. The first thing that is mentioned that he noticed was the nose ring and the bracelets the servant had given to Rebekah. He probably realized that the value of the gold meant that the servant served a rich master. He also heard Rebekah tell what the servant had said to her at the well and that only increased his interest to help this servant who had talked to his sister. Laban called the servant “blessed of the Lord.” He asked the servant why he was still standing

outside. Then, he said that he had prepared the house for the servant and the men with him. He had also prepared a place for the camels.

We see that then the servant came to the house. In Genesis 24:11, we read, “And he made his camels kneel down outside the city by a well of water at evening time, the time when women go out to draw *water*.” From this statement, we see that the servant, the camels, and the men with him had traveled all day across the desert. First, the servant unloaded the camels. Laban provided straw and feed to the servant for the camels so the camels could eat and rest. Once the camels had been fed, the servant and the other servants with him could think about their own needs. Then, Laban brought water so that the servant and the other men with him could wash their feet after their day of travel across the desert. Meanwhile, someone had been preparing the evening meal so they could all eat together.

The servant and those with him were probably very hungry after traveling all day. However, the servant did not think about his own needs first. Instead, his first thought was to carry out the will of Isaac and tell the family why he had come to their city. As a result, the servant said, “I will not eat until I have told about my errand.” Here, we see a servant who was focused on carrying out the will of his master. Many years later, Christ showed that same focus in His ministry. Jesus said, in John 4:34, “Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work’” Both the servant and Christ give us an example to follow in our own lives. Galatians 5:1 says that we have been called to liberty. Then, Galatians 5:13 says, “For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” That liberty is not an excuse to sin because we have been set free from the bondage of sin. Instead, that liberty makes it possible for us to serve others and show others the love of Christ through our actions.

Then, the family told the servant, “Speak on.” In the next topic, we will see what the servant said. We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn how to carry out the will of God, just as the servant was focused on carrying out the will of Abraham. In order for our children to develop that focus, we need to provide an example by making the will of God the focus of our lives. May the Lord richly bless you as you show your children, by your example, the importance of carrying out the will of God in your own life.