

Genesis 24:1-67

A Marriage Made in Heaven

Introduction:

Many of us have been invited to wedding ceremonies. We think about the excitement that must go through the minds of the Bride and Groom. How they both must be anticipating taking their vows before God and witnesses. How they must be thinking this is for a life of long commitment until death.

God Himself performed the first marriage in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve enjoyed their companionship and love in a perfect environment. Marriage is the giant metaphor of explaining the relationship between Christ and His Church. Husbands are commanded "to love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. This is the highest standard that sometimes husbands are ashamed of because they have fallen short. Wives are commanded to "submit to their husbands, as to the Lord." And yet wives are ashamed that they at times also fall short in this command. (Eph. 5:21-25)

We would all like to think that our marriage has been made in heaven and it can be when the Holy Spirit empowers us to obey God's commands.

I. Abraham's Servant Searching For Rebekah

A. Abraham instructs his servant by oath – v.8

1. A man of prayer – v,12, 26,27
2. A man of loyalty – v.33,56
3. A man of Action – v.10

B. The requirements of marriage:

1. Marry only in the Lord – v.3; Deut. 7:3,4; I Cor. 7:39; II Kings 11:4
2. Luther's comments... I Tim. 4:3
3. Synod of the RPCNA

C. The use of signs - v.14

1. Quite different from Gideon – Judges 6:36-40
2. Answer to prayer – v.15; Isaiah 65:24

II. Rebekah's Qualities:

A. Generosity – v. 18; (John 4:7)

B. A hard worker – v.18-20

C. A gift of hospitality – v.25; Rom. 12:13; I Tim. 5:8-10; Heb. 13:2

D. Willing Faith – v. 58

E. A lesson in Obedience: The Lord's commands must not be delayed.

1. Abraham circumcised the males in his household the day he was commanded by God – Gen. 17:3
2. Abraham sent away Hagar and Ishmael the very next day – Gen. 21:12
3. Abraham offered up his only unique son and made preparations the next morning – Gen. 22:3

Application:

1. *The command to be baptized – Matt. 28:18-20*
2. *The command to be a part of the community of believers – Rom. 12:5*
3. *The command to be make good use of our spiritual gifts – Rom. 12:6-8*

Conclusion:

Rebekah is a type of the church. She has been prepared by greater power, the Holy Spirit as Abraham's servant prepared her for the journey ahead. – Eph. 5:27 Also Isaac passed through the experience of sacrifice and resurrection before Rebekah knew him. So it is that Jesus passed through the experience of death and the resurrection before we knew Him.