

## EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

### Message #57

### Genesis 24:59-67

This story in Genesis is rare because it is a happily-ever-after story of a marriage that really was made in heaven. Although it wasn't an absolutely perfect marriage, it was close. The reason why Isaac and Rebekah married according to God's perfect will was because all involved in this account were interested in doing God's perfect will.

**THOSE WHO PURPOSE TO FAITHFULLY RESPOND TO GOD'S WILL IN LIFE DECISIONS THEY MAKE WILL HAPPILY DISCOVER THE BLESSINGS OF GOD AND THE FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S WILL.**

**RESPONSE #1** - The response of Rebekah's family. Genesis 24:59-60

**Honorable Response #1** - They sent her away with her nurse. 24:59

The nurse's name was Deborah (Genesis 35:8).

**Honorable Response #2** - They sent her away with their blessing. 24:60

The servant had obviously communicated truth to this family about God because this blessing clearly connects them with the blessing given to Abraham (22:17), which included multiplication of family and land.

**RESPONSE #2** - The response of Rebekah. 24:61

Notice Rebekah is 'following' the servant because she desires to do the will of God and the servant is leading her to fulfill the will of God. People who follow God-honoring counsel will be led straight to God's blessings.

**RESPONSE #3** - The response of Isaac. 24:62-63

Isaac was living in the Negev, which is the southern part of the land of Canaan. He had gone to the well at Beer-lahai-roi, which was Hagar's well (Genesis 16:7, 14). This was the place where God told Hagar to return to Sarah and promised Hagar that she would bear a son (Genesis 16:9-13). Undoubtedly Isaac reflected about his mother and father and all of this as he was here and it would be somewhere near this well where he would meet Rebekah.

Verse 63 informs us that Isaac was a very spiritually-minded man, who meditated daily on the things of God. It was James Strahan, the English Biblical scholar who lived at the turn of this century, who said, "A strong man of action is often a quiet man of thought" (*Hebrew Ideals In Genesis*, p. 191).

There is no doubt that great things happen when a person gets alone with God to meditate and pray. This is a critical key to this entire episode. Rebekah literally first appeared to this servant while he was praying (24:15), and now she dramatically first appears to Isaac while he is meditating and praying (24:63). As Isaac looked up he spotted the camels.

Quiet time with God is Biblical. Praying to God is Biblical. Meditating on the things of God is Biblical. These are powerful factors critical to seeing God do powerful things in your life.

**RESPONSE #4** - The response of Rebekah. 24:64-65

It appears as though their eyes met at the same time (24:63, 64).

**Action #1** - The action of humility. 24:64

According to Marcus Dods, it was the custom for a single woman to dismount from a camel or other transporting animal when a man approached (*Genesis*, p.105). So we know Rebekah works hard, she is beautiful, she is hospitable, she desires God's will and she is humble.

**Action #2** - The action of questionability. 24:65a

Rebekah had a good mind and she was not afraid to ask a logical question about the identity of the approaching man. If you are going to discover God's will, at some point you must ask Him about it, whether you are a man or woman, a girl or a boy.

**Action #3** - The action of modesty. 24:65b

It was the custom for single women to wrap their clothing not only around their face but their whole body (Genesis 38:14-15). John Calvin brings out an interesting point when he observed that many brides in his day tended on their wedding day to get as close to immodesty as possible in the selection of their gown. He said if the Biblical record is to be followed, a bride should seek the utmost of modesty on her wedding day. Calvin scolded his world by saying, "the apparel of brides seems to be purposely contrived for the subversion of all modesty" (*Genesis*, Vol. 2, p. 29).

**RESPONSE #5** - The response of the servant. 24:66

The servant told Isaac everything that had happened, and Isaac knew this was the perfect will of God. A key to determining God's will is to focus on all facts that have unfolded since you have been praying for God's perfect will. It is more of a looking backward than forward.

**RESPONSE #6** - The response of Isaac. 24:67

Primitive marriage ceremonies were neither glamorous nor expensive. There was no costly gown, no music, no tuxedos, no candles, just a man and woman before some witnesses and before God.

Sarah had been dead for three years, for Isaac was 40 when he married Rebekah (25:20), and he was 37 when his mother died (23:1; 21:5; 17:17). Rebekah, in accordance with the perfect will of God, made Isaac a wonderful wife and she was a great comfort and blessing to him.