

EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

Message #56

Genesis 24:28-56

Alexander the Great was once asked how he had conquered the world so quickly and his famous reply was “by not delaying.”

ONCE GOD’S WILL HAS BEEN DETERMINED, THE FAITHFUL SERVANT NEEDS TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO FULFILL IT AND NOT PERMIT ANYTHING OR ANYONE TO HINDER HIM.

There are a series of nine responses and reactions in this text:

RESPONSE #1 - The response of Rebekah. 24:28.

Undoubtedly, when Rebekah heard the prayer of verse 27, and saw the servant worship God and when she heard the name “Abraham”, she “ran” and told everyone in her “mother’s household.” It is called her “mothers house” because probably Bethuel, her father; had other wives. The concept of running shows up several times in this chapter: 1) The servant ran to meet Rebekah, hoping she was the answer to his prayer (24:17); 2) Rebekah ran to get water for the camels, working in a quick manner (24:20); 3) Rebekah ran to her mother’s house, wanting to report what happened (24:28); 4) Laban ran to the servant, wanting to meet him (24:29). In each case there appears to be various motives for running, but one conclusion may be drawn and that is **God’s will is not accomplished by people sitting idle and doing nothing, it is accomplished by those who get moving to do something.**

RESPONSE #2 - The response of Laban. 24:29-33a

Scripture teaches us that Laban was some form of idolator, who would later track down Jacob because he thought Jacob had stolen his “gods” (Genesis 31:30). It is clear that the thing that caught Laban’s eye was the expensive gifts that he saw his sister had been given (24:30). Laban saw this as an opportunity to gain wealth so he gladly invited the servant to stay and equated the wealth with being blessed of the LORD (24:31). God can use an idolator to accomplish His will in your life.

RESPONSE #3 - The response of the servant. 24:33b-49

(Reaction #1) - The servant refused to eat until he had told of his business. 24:33b

The word “business” means the servant set in a row the events of this matter.

(Reaction #2) - The servant reported all details intelligently and accurately. 24:34-48

Detail #1 - He identifies himself as the servant of Abraham. 24:34 - This would be meaningful to everyone in this family.

Detail #2 - He identifies Abraham as very prosperous. 24:35 - This was meaningful to Laban but the family wanted to know how she would be supported.

Detail #3 - He identifies Sarah's son as potentially prosperous. 34:36 - Very meaningful to everyone.

Detail #4 - He identifies his promise to find the right wife. 24:37-38 - This future wife would have all the wealth he just described.

Detail #5 - He identifies his own skepticism. 24:39 - The servant tells total truth.

Detail #6 - He identifies Abraham's confidence in God's leading. 24:40 - The servant is witnessing for God to an idolatrous family.

Detail #7 - He identifies the only factor that can nullify the oath. 24:41 - Abraham actually said "if the woman isn't willing" (24:8), however in order for her to be willing, the family must first approve.

Detail #8 - He identifies his specific prayer request and God's answer to it. 24:42-47 - To refuse to allow Rebekah to marry Isaac is refusing a direct answer to prayer.

Detail #9 - He identifies his specific worship to God for answering his prayer. 24:48 - If the family said "no" they were rejecting the perfect will of God.

(Reaction #3) - The servant requested an immediate response. n24:49

Once this servant had communicated God's will - he was off the hook.

RESPONSE #4 - The response of Laban and Bethuel. 24:50-51

Verse 50 points out - here is one time Laban's mouth was muzzled. They were willing to give up Rebekah because they sensed it was God's will.

RESPONSE #5 - The response of the servant. 24:52

Reaction #1 - He worshipped God. 24:52 - This is the third time the narrative stresses this (24:26, 48, 52).

Reaction #2 - He gave expensive gifts to Rebekah and her family. 24:53 - Doing God's will brings rewards.

Reaction #3 - He ate a meal with them. 24:54a

Reaction #4 - He spent the night in their home. 24:54b

Reaction #5 - He got up and desired to immediately return home. 24:54c

Reaction #6 - He requested that Rebekah be allowed to immediately leave. 24:54d

RESPONSE #6 - The response of Rebekah's brother and mother. 24:55

Rebekah's brother and mother were not excited about this and get dangerously close to

hindering God's will. If it is truly God's will you may be certain, someone or something will try to stop it or prevent it from happening.

RESPONSE #7 - The response of the servant. 24:56

The servant warns that this is God's will and they should not try to stop it.

RESPONSE #8 - The response of the brother and mother. 24:57-58a

The brother and mother's solution is to ask Rebekah. Notice she did have some say about this marriage.

RESPONSE #9 - The response of Rebekah. 24:58b

It is clear that the servant had picked the right girl, for her immediate response is "I will go."

The circumstances of God's will for a life vary from person to person. But there is one principle that stays the same for everyone - immediate conformity and obedience to God's Word and Will, always leads to God's blessings.