**THE BEST LOVE STORY**

**Genesis 24 (1-67)**

**…AND THE STORY OF OUR ETERNITY**

**What are you doing in the light of eternity?**

**What is your purpose?**

**Do you have one?**

**I have to ask a couple of questions…**

* **Are you busy pursuing your own happiness while on this earth? Sit back and reflect on your day, your activities, your goals…**
* **If I would look at the way you spend your time, money and what you read and watch---what would it reflect?**
* **While happiness is what we all want---is it the thing you seek more than what you’re called for? We all have a deep yearning that cannot be fulfilled in trite treasures put in the shallow box of happiness.**

Part of our role as Christians is to tell people about GOD’S story. We should never be ashamed of doing so. But it is one thing to preach the gospel---it is another thing to *display* the gospel. *Displaying* the gospel is the point of the church. The church puts God’s attributes on display.

* We can talk about forgiveness but are we doing it?
* We can talk about faith but are we living it?

**ACT I Genesis 24 (1-67)**

I am going to tell you a story involving 4 people. It is found in Genesis 24: One of the greatest love stories in the Bible.

1. Abraham—the father
2. Isaac—the Son
3. Rebekah—the bride
4. Eleazar—the faithful servant

As we enter the story---Abraham was very old. The Bible says he was ‘stricken in years’ - 140 yrs old. His son Isaac was 40 yrs old. Abraham was promised by God to have many children… as many as the sands of the sea! It was time his son took a wife!

Abraham sent for Eleazar, his faithful servant who managed his entire household… all his wealth and properties. He told Eleazar to go find a wife for his son, Isaac, but she was NOT to be from one of the Canaanite tribes where they dwelled… they are pagans and idolaters. Abraham wanted Eleazar to find a wife from his home country… Mesopotamia… today’s Iraq!

Abraham made his servant take an oath by putting his hand under his thigh. The thigh was considered the center of that person… so the oath was made to the center of Abraham. Eleazar had served Abraham for 85 yrs and was one of Abrahams most valued assets.

The servant asked if he should take Isaac with him. That request was denied. Abraham told this servant: “Don’t take my son with you. The Lord will send an angel before you. The Lord who gave me a promise of this land will bring your way success. You will be free of this oath if the woman God chooses will not go with you”

**ACT II**

Eleazar took the oath; he was Abraham’s chief of staff and no one was more trusted. He took 10 camels, all of his master’s goods and started on his journey. It was a 450 mile journey back to their homeland; a journey through the hot desert.

He had many days of travel. Many days to talk with God, can you imagine? He prayed to the LORD GOD---“Oh Lord God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day and show kindness unto my master Abraham.”

**Have you ever thought about the *Will of God*?**

* **Finding *the Will of God* takes much prayer; submission, watching and waiting.**
* **How do you find the Will of God?**

To *find God’s will,* some silly people let their Bible’s flop open, and point their finger to a random verse…. as if the Bible had a genie or were a horoscope. They say to themselves, “Whatever my finger lands on—that I will do.” The Word of God IS the way to find God’s will… but it is through reading it meaningfully, reading it to understand the ways of God, prayerfully asking for His guidance as we study and meditate. Using the Bible to find God’s will is not a game of chance… finding a random verse on a random page.

Here’s a fun story…..

A man put his Bible on the window sill…. He let the wind blow the pages until it stopped. He then closed his eyes and put his finger on a random verse. Much to his surprise it said, “**And Judas went out and hung himself.”**

He could not believe his eyes and slammed the Bible shut. He thought, “That doesn’t make any sense!” Instead of actually trying to read his Bible, he tried his silly process again… he placed it on the window sill and let the wind randomly blow it open to a page again. He closed his eyes, pointed his finger to another random verse which said, **“Go and do thou likewise.”**

He couldn’t believe his search for the will of God had failed again. So he decided to try his silly process ONE MORE time and his finger landed on a verse that said, “**Whatsoever thou do—do quickly!”** He discovered, SHOCKINGLY, that this is not the way to find the *Will of God* for your life, my friends.

When God gives us a mission, we DO need confirmation that each step that we take in our lives is consistent with God’s direction and leading us closer to completing our mission.When we are seeking His guidance, let’s do it with intent, in prayer, and through meaningful immersion in God’s Word.

**Back to our friend, Eleazar…**

So this faithful servant arrived in Mesopotamia. He had been commissioned by His Master to find a wife. His purpose and mission was clear. He was just know sure how he would recognize God’s specific choice of a wife.

In the book of Judges, another servant of God, Gideon, needed God’s specific directions about whether or not to attack his enemies. He laid out a sheep’s fleece on the ground overnight. He prayed that if God would bless the attack, God should make the fleece wet with dew, but to keep the ground around it dry… a miracle occurred. To make sure, the next night he asked for the opposite to happen. Gideon woke to find that the fleece was dry and the ground was soaked… He was then confident that God would give him victory over Israel’s enemies. The process that Gideon has been called *putting out a fleece* to seek God’s direction.

**Back to our friend, Eleazar, again…**

Eleazar knew his commission… to find a wife for Isaac… but he needed God’s specific direction to find the perfect one. So, like Gideon, he prayed to God and proposed a method for God to communicate His exact will… He *put out a fleece* of a different sort… Here is what he said:

**Vs:13 of 24 chapter:**

“Behold, God I stand here by the well of water and the daughters of the men of the city have come out to draw water. Let it be that when I say, ‘let down thy pitcher, I pray thee that I may drink—she shall say, drink and I will give thy camels drink also—let that be the one Father! That way I will know she is the one for my master’s son!”

**Ok, I need to give you all a few details:**

* ONE camel holds 25 gallons of water!!!
* Eleazar had 10 camels! 10!! …
* IF every camel was running on ‘empty’ after travelling 450 miles… that is well over 250 gallons of water!
* Anyone who would do that would be some kind of woman! Yah?

So even ***while*** Eleazar was still praying, a beautiful girl came to the well. As she left, he ran after her and asked *just for a sip* of water. Rebekah replied, “Drink my Lord, I will draw water for your camels also, till they are thus full”

So… Rebekah drew water for all his camels!

Eleazar was smart… this faithful servant didn’t ask God for a confirmation that would apply to many women---‘let her hair be brown, or her eyes blue’

No, he asked God ---for something specific, something unusual, so he would not miss it. Then, he waited and watched for the Lord’s affirmation. He remained silent in order to watch whether God made His journey successful. He held his peace, scripture said.

After the camels were watered, he took a golden earring, two gold bracelets and gave them to her and asked whose daughter she was? When she answered, he asked if there was room in her father’s house so he could lodge for the night.

Eleazer---a faithful man of God saw what was happening. He now knew God was directing his entire search process, so he stopped, bowed down, honor and blessed God.

The Bible says, “**Then he bowed down his head and worshipped the Lord. “Blessed be the Lord God of my Master Abraham who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth……**

***I BEING ON THE WAY, THE LORD LED ME … to the house of my master’s brethren***

**ACT III**

At Rebekah’s house, Eleazer retells the whole entire story to her family. God met Abraham’s request. In verses 51 to 60, we find the following things happen:

* Eleazer gave Rebekah the large dowry
* Her family gave their permission for her to marry Isaac saying: “Rebekah is before thee, take her, and go, and let her be thy master’s son’s wife as the Lord has spoken”
* Eleazer worshipped the Lord again, bowing on the ground.
* Her family asked if Rebekah could abide 10 more days with them before leaving.
* Eleazer---had no room in his schedule for this, and said, “The Lord has prospered my way, send me away that I may go to my master”

You see, when you are commissioned and blessed God---you don’t want to mess around, party and play games. He had a mission to complete: to bring a bride for the master’s son, and he wanted desperately to complete it.

So, they called in Rebekah, and she said, “I will go now.” They did not hesitate---they immediately started on the 450 mile journey back… Rebekah and her damsels..

Listen---Rebekah, never saw Isaac before---she did not know if he was fat, skinny, short, tall, handsome or ugly. She does not remember Abraham who left the family sooo many years ago… probably before she was born. But she had faith in God.

IN faith she left her family and went with this faithful servant, Eleazar…

Isaac, the bridegroom, has no idea what is going on back in Mesopotamia… he is in his fathers home patiently waiting.

It says, when she saw him from a distance; she covered herself---and Isaac, seeing her, immediately loved her!

**I tell you this fantastic story that teaches us many things:**

#**1) God’s Will is for those who desire to know it.** MANY Christians don’t WANT to know the will of God for their lives. They don’t want to live for a greater purpose. They want to be a “Christian” without caring about God’s greater purpose.

**#2) God’s Will is for those who are determine to do it.**  It says he just went. He didn’t argue. He didn’t wait around for something better… something he would *like* more. He just went. He was serious about accomplishing the will of GOD---he refused to eat until he told the household of Rebekah why he was there. He refused to stay 10 extra days, he wanted to be about God’s will.

**#3) Eleazar knew the Will of God was BIGGER than his little mission.** Eleazar knew that his mission was to find a bride for Isaac. But he also knew that this was one little step in God’s GREATER PROMISE to his master… that God would bless Abraham with descendants that are as numerous as the sands of the sea and the stars of the heavens. His mission was important to get that ball rolling… but just one step in God’s fulfillment of a much bigger promise… not only to Abraham go give him countless children… but a promise to bless ALL NATIONS with the Messiah. Think about it… without a bride for Isaac… would we have Jesus?? Eleazar was dedicated to making sure we never had to ask that question… he was faithful to his master… and he was faithful to Abraham’s God as well.

***JOHN 7:17***

***If any one wills to do the Will of God, He shall know it concerning the doctrine***

***If anyone wants to know the will of God, will!***

Many of us say, “I want to know the will of God for my life—but, THEN, I will determine if I want to do it or not.”

DOING the will of GOD---is NOT about your plans. It is NOT about …*”let me see what it is, then I will determine if I want to do it.”*

GOD KNOWS your heart. DO YOU WANT TO KNOW GODS WILL FOR YOUR LIFE? If you do… ask Him, and He will show it to you.

**I am going to challenge you…**

* **WOULD you be willing to sign a document----a blank document, giving GOD permission to fill in the blank space, the lines of your life?**
* **How serious are you?**
* **Would you sign a blank check over to God?**
* **Would you sign this blank sheet of paper?**
* **Will you allow God to write the story of your life here, on this page?**
* **WILL YOU SIGN IT BEFORE KNOWING WHAT HE WILL ASK OF YOU?**

**IF YOU WILL DO IT\_\_\_\_ YOU SHALL KNOW IT.**

Some of you don’t know the will of GOD because you want to vote on it. There is not a voting system in God’s plans.

*Can you say… “Show me what to do and before you show me, I will do it”*

*And sign your name?*

It is only scary if you don’t know God as a loving God.

**#4) God’s will is for those who depend on God to reveal it… step by step.** GOD has a way of affirming His will after you start stepping out in faith!!!! He cannot direct your steps if you are standing still… or sitting down. He will ask you to walk the hall of faith.

**#5) God’s will is for those who direct their praise to God because they are living in it..**  Eleazar bowed down at every junction of God’s provision!

**#6) God’s Will is for those who dare to ALWAYS seek to walk in it!** Being in the will of God is a lifestyle! Being in the will of God today---is the best way to decipher the will of God tomorrow!!! There are all kinds of seminar, conferences and lectures on finding the will of God… finding the will of God is not for the big things, it is a lifestyle that leads you to those things! God is a ‘lamp unto our feet’ showing us the NEXT STEP on His path… He never promised to be a HIGH BEAM to light up the road years ahead.

Eleazar said, “I BEING ON THE WAY---the Lord led me”… You have to BE ON THE WAY, before you can be led by God!

You can’t steer a parked car. The wheel won’t turn. When you turn the car on and step slowly on the gas, steering is made easy! If you want the plan of your life three years from now, you must start in HIS plan now… and continue STEP by REVEALED STEP.

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**This was a nice love story, right?**

This story is far greater than just a love story God put together… you see,

In this story we find a pictures of God’s will for every one of our lives.

You see, in this story, you can think of this…

* ABRAHAM represents the role of… GOD THE FATHER
* ISAAC represents the role of… JESUS CHRIST
* REBEKAH I represents the role of… THE CHURCH, THE BRIDE OF JESUS CHRIST
* ELEAZAR I represents the role of… THE HOLY SPIRIT, calling and gathering the bride for His Lord.

We know that the Almighty God sent His Only Son, Jesus, to be a sacrifice and die for mankind

* Abraham was also willing to sacrifice HIS ONLY SON, Isaac
* Isaac, the only son of Abraham; he carried the wood for his own sacrifice and allowed himself to be bound and submitted himself for sacrifice
* Rebekah was a person sought after and called by Eleazar to marry Isaac and she believed and agreed
* Eleazar was the representative of Father Abraham to seek out, call out, and bring out a bride for his only son, Isaac.

Today, the Holy Spirit is the one calling the Bride of Christ home to the Father to be with her groom, Jesus.

The very Spirit of God indwells each of us who believe. We are anointed with greater missions than just living. One mission that we ALL have is this… By the power of the Spirit of God, we MUST be building up and purifying the bride of Christ! We KNOW that ‘God is not willing that any should perish’ and we KNOW that we are commanded to ‘be holy as He is holy’.

* Can people tell that you follow Jesus, that you are walking in the light, and that your life is different from people of the world?
* Are you living a spiritual life that causes men to be envious of your faith and attitude?
* Does your life produce the Fruit of the Spirit: “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control?”
* Do you pray for the Spirit to give you opportunities to witness about what Jesus has done in your life, and seek to make disciples?

In these times, the world is getting darker and darker. The world NEEDS the light that Jesus brings. The USA is disintegrating before our eyes… values are absent. We should not be focusing of collecting wealth, having fun, texting about US, or doing whatever we want.

**THE HOUR IS LATE.** Jesus is almost at the door. We must be building up the BRIDE of CHRIST with new disciples… calling her to cleanse herself… to be holy… to be ready to meet the Master… to be delivered, like Rebekah, to her loving GROOM…

* **Will you sign control of your life away?**
* **Will you give God the blank page and give Him permission to fill in the remaining lines?**
* **Will you be about your Father’s Business????**