

- D. The Journey in Choosing the Bride (Genesis 24:10-11)
1. The train for the journey (Genesis 24:10)
 - a. Ten camels of his master (Abraham and Isaac)
 - b. Having charge of his master's goods (Genesis 24:10; cp. Genesis 24:2)
 - c. The other men of the train (Genesis 24:32)
 2. The servant journeyed to Mesopotamia (Genesis 24:10)
 - a. Unto the city of Nahor
 - b. Where Abraham's family lived.
 3. The place of arrival (Genesis 24:10-11)
 - a. The servant came to Nahor, a city of Mesopotamia (Genesis 24:10).
 - b. They rested outside the city by a well of water (Genesis 24:11).
 - (1) Making his camels to kneel,
 - (2) At the evening time,
 - (3) At the time the women of the city came out to draw water.
- E. The Prayer in Choosing the Bride (Genesis 24:12-14)
1. The servant stopped and prayed (Genesis 24:12).
 - a. "O LORD God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, **send me good speed this day**, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham."
 - b. Note: The servant appealed to God with his master's name. He came on the behalf of another (James 5:16).
 - c. This prayer was needed for several reasons
 - (1) One, the servant needed direction.
 - (2) Two, Abraham had sent the servant expecting God to do something.
 - (3) Three, Isaac needed a wife.
 2. The location of the servant (Genesis 24:13)
 3. The specifics of the servant's prayer (Genesis 24:13-14).
 - a. The servant's request – "let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink..."
 - b. The woman's response – "and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also..."
- F. The Answer of Prayer in Choosing the Bride (Genesis 24:15-25)
1. The immediate response to the prayer (Genesis 24:15)
 - a. "Before he had done speaking" she arrived.
 - b. Rebekah came out
 - (1) The damsel was kin to Abraham and Isaac. – "Born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother."
 - (2) With her pitcher on her shoulder.

- c. Note: The servant had done his part in making his way to Nahor and then asking God to “take over” and do His part. The servant could not choose the right one, God had to supply. Just so, we should be faithful and trust God to work in our lives to direct our steps. To the person wanting to get married, find the right one, God would have you to be faithful in trusting him, doing what’s right and trust him for the outcome.
 - d. Note: Rebekah was faithfully doing her work, keeping busy, tending to the things that had been placed in her charge. Isaac was faithful back home doing his work, keeping busy about his father’s charge.
2. The beauty of Rebekah (Genesis 24:16)
 3. The approach and request of the servant (Genesis 24:17)
 - a. He ran to meet her.
 - b. That he might have a little water to drink.
 4. The proper answer of Rebekah (Genesis 24:18-20)
 - a. She gave the servant a drink of water.
 - b. She offered to give drink to his camels also. Note: “*until they have done drinking.*”
 - (1) Q: How much can one camel drink in one setting?
 - (2) A: The answers vary, however, it is somewhere between 20 gallons (US) and 53 gallons (US). This would mean that she would have needed between 200 and 530 gallons (US) of water to quench the thirst of these camels.
 - c. This offer certainly showed Rebekah’s work ethic to the servant, as this would have been no easy task on her part to do (Proverbs 31).
 - d. She drew water for all the camels (Genesis 24:19, 20).
 5. The reveal of Rebekah’s family connection (Genesis 24:21-24)
 - a. The servant wondered at her, holding his peace.
 - b. He was amazed at the answer to his prayer (Genesis 24:21).
 - (1) Note: “*wonder*”; defined: Old English wundor "marvelous thing, miracle, object of astonishment. In Middle English it also came to mean the emotion associated with such a sight (late 13c.)." – www.etymonline.com
 - (2) Note the use of the root word “wonder” in scripture:
 - (a) A “sign or wonder” (Deuteronomy 13:1, 2; Deuteronomy 28:46).
 - (b) Associated with astonishment and regard (Jeremiah 4:9; Habakkuk 1:5).
 - (c) Associated with amazement (Luke 24:12; Acts 3:11).

- c. The servant's question of her family (Genesis 24:23)
 - (1) "Whose daughter art thou?"
 - (2) "Is there room for in thy father's house for us to lodge in?"
- d. The answer of Rebekah of her family (Genesis 24:24)
- e. The offer to lodge in her home (Genesis 24:25)

II. THE COURTING OF THE BRIDE (Genesis 24:22-48)

- A. The Right Way of Courting (Genesis 24:3, 4, 11, 12-14, 21-22, 27, 28-48)
 - 1. Court Prayerfully (Genesis 24:12-14)
 - a. When the servant came to the city he prayed about direction.
 - b. The servant prayed that God would direct him to the right young woman.
 - (1) This was an extremely important decision that he had to make.
 - (2) He would certainly need God's guidance in finding the right woman.
 - c. In application, the choosing of a spouse ought to be one of the more important things on your prayer list (Philippians 4:6).
 - d. Prayer not only should be an important part of the courting process, but it also needs to be an important part of keeping the marriage going once it has occurred (Genesis 25:19-23).
 - 2. Court Obediently (Genesis 24:27)
 - a. The servant was obedient in obeying the voice of Abraham, his master.
 - b. He was also obedient in obeying the direction of the Lord.
 - (1) Notice that the verse (verse 27) has two things occurring in it.
 - (a) One, the servant was in the way, the way of obedience, the Lord blessed his journey. The servant had obeyed Abraham in going to the place he had instructed him to go.
 - (b) Two, when he got to Nahor, he prayed at the well and asked for direction.
 - (2) Don't expect God to bring you the right one, until you've submitted to His will and obeyed His voice.
 - (3) Note: Also, be willing to submit to the ones that God has placed the rule over you. Parents, guardians, etc. (Hebrews 13:17).
 - (4) Note: Walking disobediently will not place God on your side to meet the right one. Walking disobediently can cause you to meet the wrong one and make a mistake that will plague you the rest of your life.

3. Court Deliberately (Genesis 24:21, 22)
 - a. If we consider this choice being made according to the custom of our day, we will be shocked at the momentum in which the choice was made.
 - b. However, considering the day in which Abraham lived, this choice reflected wise deliberation. While Rebekah was chosen in a matter of hours, the consideration that went into it by the servant is seen in the patience and prayer taken at the well. He waited to see if she would fulfill all that he had asked of God, and all that she had promised she would do concerning the camels.
 - c. The servant proved the prospect before he proposed to her. He was not hasty to do something that could have proven fatal for the future marriage (Proverbs 14:29; 29:20). He observed Rebekah and decided only after he was sure of what he learned.
 - d. Note: Take enough time in courting to learn the character of the prospective spouse. There is no set time for how long you must court before you get married. That will vary with age and circumstances. But in every case be deliberate enough to know well the character of the prospect before you entertain thoughts of marriage.
4. Court Logically (Genesis 24:3, 4, 11)
 - a. Abraham's servant looked logically for a bride for Isaac.
 - b. He looked where character would or should exist, and he looked where it could be examined.
 - (1) He looked in a place where character would/should exist (Genesis 24:3, 4).
 - (a) The servant did not look in Canaan (the world) for a bride.
 - (b) The servant looked went to the land of Abraham's kinfolk to look for a bride (other Christians).
 - (c) Note: as we've noted in the past, the people of the land were pagans, looking there would have been disastrous for a marriage.
 - (d) Looking for a spouse in church or in church meetings will give you a much better opportunity for finding a good Christian husband or wife.
 - (2) He looked where it could be examined (Genesis 24:11).
 - (a) The servant stopped by a well of water when the women would normally come out to draw water for the home.
 - (b) This would give him the opportunity to observe the character of these young women, or specifically a certain young woman.

- (c) If the only time you see your prospective spouse is at a fellowship, banquet or some other special event, this will not give you the information needed to make a wise decision concerning that individual's character.
 - (d) If, however, you have the opportunity to be at workdays, in their home, or in a ministry this will allow you to see how their character is concerning a work ethic, with their family, and in a stressful or pressure environment.
 - (e) The servant was able to observe Rebekah concerning her work ethic with the camels, her hospitality when she invited them in and her character in the home when he logged that evening.
5. Court Responsibly (Genesis 24:17, 22-23, 34-35, 38)
- a. Courting is a two-way street. If you're pursuing a spouse, be sure to act responsibly. The servant of Abraham was very responsible.
 - b. He dialogued with courtesy (Genesis 24:17).
 - (1) The servant was checking Rebekah's manners.
 - (2) He certainly showed good manners in saying, "*I pray thee*" and "*a little water*" showed his courtesy.
 - (3) He was not demeaning or demanding. If you want to court, have a good tongue in your head.
 - (4) Vulgar, rude, and unkind words are an indication of a lack of character.
 - c. He disclosed identities (Genesis 24:34, 36).
 - (1) When the camels had finished drinking the servant was convinced that Rebekah was the right young woman for Isaac.
 - (2) The servant disclosed his identity fully. He was interested in who Rebekah was (Genesis 24:23).
 - (3) Always, be open and honest about yourself with the other person.
 - (4) As the courtship progresses, be sure to disclose your background and important information about yourself to the other. After all, this individual will become your better half, they have a right to know.
 - d. He demonstrated capability (Genesis 24:22, 53).
 - (1) The servant placed a golden earring on her and two bracelets on her hands of ten shekels weight of gold.
 - (2) He brought forth jewels of gold, silver, and raiment for Rebekah.
 - (3) In giving these gifts the servant demonstrated the ability of Isaac to provide for Rebekah.
 - e. He declared his intentions (Genesis 24:38).
 - (1) The servant declared plainly his intentions to the family of Rebekah.

- (2) The principle here is that the servant did not become timid about his interest in Rebekah.
- (3) When courting, do not play games. Do not become arrogant and play “hard to get” when that is not your intentions, or you may find yourself “hard to get.” Playing games, being prideful and playing with that other person’s heart is dangerous and only shows that your heart is wrong before God.
- (4) Always be honest and forthright about your intentions and interests. Simply, be honest in your talk and conduct regarding your interests. This is responsible courting.
- (5) This does not mean that you must commit to marriage at the start, but this individual should be one that you would consider for such.

III. THE COMMUNICATION FOR THE BRIDE (Genesis 24:34-56)

A. The Person of the Message (Genesis 24:34-36)

1. The servant spoke of his master (Genesis 24:34-35)
2. The servant spoke of his master’s son (Genesis 24:36)
 - a. The message about Isaac was the message that Rebekah need to hear.
 - b. The jewels and gold would mean little if Isaac wasn’t involved.
 - (1) This is reminiscent of the hymn “The Sands of Time Are Sinking”;
... *“The bride eyes not her garment, But her dear bridegroom’s face; I will not gaze at glory, But on my King of grace, – Not at the crown he gifteth But on his pierced hand: The Lamb is all the glory of Immanuel’s land.”* (v. 17)
 - (2) Soon Rebekah would behold the face of her bridegroom (Genesis 24:64-67; Psalm 17:15).
 - c. Note: the servant is a great picture of the Holy Spirit doing the work of the Father (God the Father) and the Son (God the Son) (John 16:13).

B. The Proof for the Message (Genesis 24:30-31, 37-48)

1. The servant proved his message with physical gifts (Genesis 24:30, 31).
 - a. The servant proved his message with impressive gifts that he gave to Rebekah and to the rest of the family.
 - b. Greedy Laban had no trouble perceiving this kind of proof.
2. The servant told the family of Abraham’s plan for a wife for Isaac (Genesis 24:37-41).
3. The servant told of his own prayer concerning guidance (Genesis 24:42-44).
4. He told of God’s answer to prayer in the arrival of Rebekah at the well (Genesis 24:45-48).

- C. The Proposal in the Message (Genesis 24:49-56)
 - 1. The acceptance of Laban and Bethuel for God's plan (Genesis 24:49-51).
 - 2. The worship of the servant (Genesis 24:52).
 - 3. The servant gave gifts to Rebekah and her family (Genesis 24:53).

IV. THE CHOICE BY THE BRIDE (Genesis 24:54-67)

- A. The Resistance to her Choice (Genesis 24:54-55)
 - 1. The source of the resistance (Genesis 24:54-55)
 - a. The source of resistance was Rebekah's own family.
 - b. These would have been the one's that would've claimed to have had Rebekah's best interests at heart.
 - (1) The same is true in the work of the Gospel and ministry—the greatest hindrances to a person many times are those that claim the name of Christ (3 John v. 9-10).
 - (2) In Laban and Bethuel's case it is likely that Laban wanted to "milk" this situation to see just how much material wealth he could get out of it.
 - 2. The subtleness of the resistance (Genesis 24:55-56)
 - a. This resistance came in the form of procrastination.
 - b. Under the guise of putting off something for awhile, procrastination is actually trying to put it off forever. It doesn't directly say, "No," but simply says put it off for awhile which will, of course, lead to putting it off forever.
- B. The Revealing of her Choice (Genesis 24:56-60)
 - 1. The family left the time of departure up to Rebekah (Genesis 24:57-58).
 - 2. Rebekah agreed to go (Genesis 24:58).
 - 3. The train returned to the land of departure (Genesis 24:59).
 - 4. Laban and Bethuel blessed Rebekah (Genesis 24:60).
 - a. *"Be thou the mother of thousands of millions."*
 - b. *"Let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them."*
- C. The Results of her Choice (Genesis 24:61-67)
 - 1. Isaac saw the camels coming (Genesis 24:61-63).
 - a. Rebekah departed from her home—Note: This took faith. (Genesis 24:61).
 - b. Isaac dwelled in the south country (Genesis 24:62).
 - c. Isaac came out at eventide to meditate—This shows Isaac's relationship with God (Genesis 24:63; Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2; Psalm 77:11-12; Psalm 104:34; Psalm 143:5-6).
 - 2. Rebekah covered herself with a veil (Genesis 24:64-65).
 - 3. Isaac and Rebekah were married (Genesis 25:66-67).