

SERMON NOTES

August 25, 2013

Scripture: Genesis 24:1-67 (NAS)

Topic: "Seeking God's Will"

Rev. Bruce Gardner

- 1 Now Abraham was old, advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in every way.
- 2 Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he owned, "Please place your hand under my thigh,
- 3 and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live,
- 4 but you will go to my country and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son Isaac."
- 5 The servant said to him, "Suppose the woman is not willing to follow me to this land; should I take your son back to the land from where you came?"
- 6 Then Abraham said to him, "Beware that you do not take my son back there!
- 7 "The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my birth, and who spoke to me and who swore to me, saying, 'To your descendants I will give this land,' He will send His angel before you, and you will take a wife for my son from there.
- 8 "But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this my oath; only do not take my son back there."
- 9 So the servant placed his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and swore to him concerning this matter.
- 10 Then the servant took ten camels from the camels of his master, and set out with a variety of good things of his master's in his hand; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor.
- 11 He made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at evening time, the time when women go out to draw water.
- 12 He said, "O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today, and show lovingkindness to my master Abraham.
- 13 "Behold, I am standing by the spring, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water; now may it be that the girl to whom I say, 'Please let down your jar so that I may drink,' and who answers, 'Drink, and I will water your camels also'--may she be the one whom You have appointed for Your servant Isaac; and by this I will know that You have shown lovingkindness to my master."
- 15 Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor, came out with her jar on her shoulder.
- 16 The girl was very beautiful, a virgin, and no man had had relations with her; and she went down to the spring and filled her jar and came up.
- 17 Then the servant ran to meet her, and said, "Please let me drink a little water from your jar."
- 18 She said, "Drink, my lord"; and she quickly lowered her jar to her hand, and gave him a drink.
- 19 Now when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw also for your camels until they have finished drinking."
- 20 So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough, and ran back to the well to draw, and she drew for all his camels.
- 21 Meanwhile, the man was gazing at her in silence, to know whether the LORD had made his journey successful or not.
- 22 When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring weighing a half-shekel and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten shekels in gold,
- 23 and said, "Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room for us to lodge in your father's house?"
- 24 She said to him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor."
- 25 Again she said to him, "We have plenty of both straw and feed, and room to lodge in."
- 26 Then the man bowed low and worshiped the LORD.
- 27 He said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His lovingkindness and His truth toward my master; as for me, the LORD has guided me in the way to the house of my master's brothers."
- 28 Then the girl ran and told her mother's household about these things.
- 61 Then Rebekah arose with her maids, and they mounted the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed.
- 62 Now Isaac had come from going to Beer-lahai-roi; for he was living in the Negev.
- 63 Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening; and he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, camels were coming.
- 64 Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from the camel.
- 65 She said to the servant, "Who is that man walking in the field to meet us?" And the servant said, "He is my master." Then she took her veil and covered herself.
- 66 The servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.
- 67 Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and he took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her: thus Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

I. STEPS TO KNOWING GOD'S WILL

- A. Knowing God Through His Word
- B. Be Ready To Do God's Will
- C. Be Doing God's Will On Matters Large And Small

II. ABRAHAM SOUGHT GOD'S WILL FOR A WIFE FOR ISAAC

- A. He Began With Matters Where He Knew God's Will
 1. She was not to be an unbeliever *II Corinthians 6:14-18*
 2. She too must trust in God's promises
- B. Abraham Regularly Walked In God's Will Training His Servants To Do The Same
 1. The servant called for God's direction through prayer
 2. He put God's will first *Matthew 6:33; Proverbs 3:5,6*
 3. He sought a woman with a servant-like, Christ-like heart
Philippians 2:4,5

III. TO ATTAIN GOD'S WILL WE MUST MOVE FORWARD

- A. Action Taken Based On God's Revealed Will
 1. A wife is a good desire *Proverbs 18:22*
 2. Search was directed among God's people
- B. Isaac Trusted That Guidance *Genesis 24:66*
 1. He took Rebekah as a wife
 2. He was blessed by God and comforted

APPLICATION:

1. Know God's Revealed Will Through Daily Study Of His Word
2. Regularly Do His Will
3. Seek His Will Through Pray And Acting On His Revealed Will
4. Trust His Will When It Is Made Evident To You
5. Do Not Forget To Thank The Lord For His Answers *Genesis 24:26*