
SG020113

The Whole Counsel of God – Genesis 24

Got questions? Email Pastor Jason at jasonduff7@gmail.com

(You can download this message as a pod cast by searching Jason Duff on I-Tunes)

Introduction & Overview of the Section

Introduction

This week we switch gears from Abraham to his son Isaac. The last recorded words of Abraham are in verse 7, but as the chapter unfolds we once again see a beautiful picture of the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit and even us as the bride of Christ.

Genesis Chapter 24

#1 – The Will of the Father – Genesis 24:1-9

Abraham sends his servant back to his homeland to find a bride for his son. He does not want Isaac to marry a Canaanite, but a descendant of Shem, like Abraham and Sarah were.

#2 – The Witness of the Servant – Genesis 24:10-49

The servant travels thousands of miles, and several months to the land Abraham was from, and then he prays and witnesses God be faithful to honors his prayers and the prayers of Abraham.

#3 – The Willingness of the Bride – Genesis 24:50-60

The bride must be willing to go with this servant to marry his master Isaac, and in that is a great picture of us as a church. God will do everything to woo us, but we must respond to His call.

#4 - The Welcome of the Bridegroom – Genesis 24:61-67

When Rebekah meets Isaac for the first time, he has been out seeking the Lord. They are united and Isaac loves her with all of his heart. It's a great picture of the type of people we are to be before marriage, during marriage and it's also a great picture of God's love for us.

Key Issues or Words

“Rebekah became his wife and he loved her” (24:67) – Hopefully we marry someone we love. That always makes things better! More important Biblically though is that we are to love the one we marry. Isaac and Rebekah didn't know one another before their wedding day, but a choice was made by the both of them to love the one they married. If more couples today would simply make this choice, marriage in America would be much more successful.

By the way...

Genesis 24:19 – “I will draw water for your camels also” – This was no small undertaking. The average camel can drink up to 25 gallons of water. The servant had 10 camels with him which means Rebekah had to draw 250 gallons out of a well that she had to walk up and down stairs to get to with a bucket that averaged about 3 gallons in that day. This means to water the camels of a man she didn't even know was an undertaking of at least a few hours. Rebekah was obviously a special girl with a real servant's heart.

Homework 4 Next Week – Read Genesis 25-27

Chapter 25-27 is all about contrasts the Lord sets up to teach us spiritual lessons. See how many you can find and what each contrast can teach us about our walk with the Lord.

Genesis 24

“Pictures”

Introduction

- Tonight we are going to continue our study in the foundational book of the Old Testament and really all of the Bible
 - Remember the content is not hard to remember, because the title says it all

The word Genesis means “beginnings”

- And truly so many things in scripture have their beginning in the book of Genesis
 - The universe
 - Life in general
 - Man, marriage
 - Sin and evil
 - Language, government, nations
 - Specifically we will see the nation of Israel
- In fact understanding that this book means and is about beginnings really is a good way to divide up our look at this book as you can see in your book intro sheet

Outline for the Book of Genesis

Chapters 1-11 – The Beginning of all nations

- Chapters 1-2 – The Creation
- Chapter 3 - 5 – The Fall
- Chapter 6-9 – The Flood
- Chapters 10-11 – The Tables of Nations

Chapters 12-50 – The Beginning of the Jewish nation

- Chapters 12-23 – Abraham
- Chapters 24-27 – Isaac
- Chapters 28-36 – Jacob
- Chapters 37-50 – Joseph

Tonight we are going begin to look at the life of Isaac – and really it is so important that we do, because Isaac is one of the those guys in the scripture that is a picture of Jesus Christ

- I like pictures
 - It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. - I think that is true

One time I was going to someplace my sister had been many times before, and asked her to draw me a map. Now what I received was about a page of instructions, and on the other side this very simple road map. The key street that I was to turn on was, I forget the name, but my sister drew this cow, with the words “Moo”. And I was told a cow would be hanging out there at the corner. Well I went on my trip and these country roads had no clear street signs I was totally lost. But I saw in the distance this cow on the side of the road, and as I pulled off next to it trying to read the small street signs, I kid you not, this cow mooed at me. I knew it was the right street. Because of the picture

- Pictures illustrate truths very well.
 - Well a Biblical picture or type helps us understand a concept or the character of a person in the Bible

Tonight as we continue our study through Genesis we are going to continue to see a picture, a type that God is setting up, here in the Old Testament of The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit, the church and even the nation of Israel.

- We kind of rushed through it two weeks ago, because I had to get on a plane, and more than that it was two weeks ago so, not many of us remember yesterday, let alone two weeks ago
 - But Abraham's offering of Isaac was a beautiful picture of another Father who would offer his son

7 pictures from Genesis 22

#1 – “your only son” – Verse 2

- now this was not Abraham's only son, you remember Abraham had a son by the name of Ishmael
 - but as we have talked about before, verse 2 here speaks to the fact that God doesn't recognize the works of the flesh

And more than that – I believe God says it this way on purpose

- For He would someday, offering His only son, who He loved for you and for me

7 pictures from Genesis 22

#1 – “your only son” – Verse 2

#2 – “The lad” – Verse 5

- many of us picture a little boy – that is what we were taught in Sunday School - but that is not true
 - The Hebrew word means “young man’ – and if you add up the years, Isaac is most likely around age 30 at this point
- Which on one hand, I am really blessed that the Bible considers someone in their 30's a young man
 - But I think the real point is Jesus was right about the same age as Isaac when His father offered him for you and for me

7 pictures from Genesis 22

#1 – “your only son” – Verse 2

#2 – “The lad” – Verse 5

#3 – “3 Days” – Verse 4

- We all know that Jesus in was in the grave for 3 days and 3 nights – Matthew 12:40
 - Well again the parallels here – this was a three day journey that Abraham and Isaac were on

It was 3 days from the time that God said sacrifice your son, until God gave him back - And so in very real since in Abraham's mind, his son was dead 3 days and then given back to him

7 pictures from Genesis 22

#1 – “your only son” – Verse 2

#2 – “The lad” – Verse 5

#3 – “3 Days” – Verse 4

#4 – “God will provide Himself” – Verse 8

In verse 8 Isaac asked a very important question

- hey Dad, I see the wood, I see that big knife in your hand, but where is the sacrifice that we are going to offer
 - and Abraham says something so interesting to me
 - in the New King James – God will provide for Himself a sacrifice
- but the King James Version I believe sums up true indication of the text

“God will provide Himself a lamb” – Genesis 22:8 (King James Version)

- I believe Abraham was not just arresting the fears of his son, but was speaking prophetically of one day when God would provide Himself as a lamb for our sins

7 pictures from Genesis 22

#1 – “your only son” – Verse 2

#2 – “The lad” – Verse 5

#3 – “3 Days” – Verse 4

#4 – “God will provide Himself” – Verse 8

#5 – “The wood...laid on his son” – Verse 6

- Just like Jesus carried the cross
 - So Isaac carried the wood that he was to be sacrificed upon

In The Genesis Rabbah, a pre-Christian Jewish Midrash, commented that **“Isaac with the wood on his back was like a condemned man carrying his own cross” – Genesis Rabbah (a pre-Christian Jewish Midrash)**

- Even Jewish scholars see the picture, without believe the truth

7 pictures from Genesis 22

#1 – “your only son” – Verse 2

#2 – “The lad” – Verse 5

#3 – “3 Days” – Verse 4

#4 – “God will provide Himself” – Verse 8

#5 – “The wood...laid on his son” – Verse 6

#6 – “The two of them went together” – Verse 8

- remember this is not a little kid, and Abraham was old, Isaac was most likely in his early 30's
 - meaning he could have easily over power the old man
 - He could have out run the old man
 - I think for me, if that had happened, it would have been my cue that it was time to move out – the old man is crazy – I'm moving out
- But what it really shows is Isaac was a willing sacrifice just like Jesus
 - God the Father was forcing God the Son
 - Jesus loves us with all His heart, enough to die in our place

7 pictures from Genesis 22

#1 – “your only son” – Verse 2

#2 – “The lad” – Verse 5

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#4 – “God will provide Himself” – Verse 8

#5 – “The wood...laid on his son” – Verse 6

#6 – “The two of them went together” – Verse 8

#7 – “In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided” - Verse 14

You see I am convinced that the very place where Abraham offered Isaac was the place where another Father would offer His son, yet He did not stop it

- you see the Mountains of Moriah is where Jerusalem sits today – God send Abraham to Jerusalem to offer his son

The place one would offer a sacrifice would be at the tallest point of the point where you had a little flat area – that was the normal procedure for offering sacrifices

- Now the Jewish people will tell you that was on the temple mount, that was why they put the temple there - That right where the old holy of holies was, is the exact spot where Isaac was offered

Now it is true that the Temple Mount in Jerusalem is the highest spot you could build a temple

- But geological studies of the region show that highest place with a flat plateau, the Abraham would have recognized as a high place, he could build a small alter, is actually a few hundred yards away
 - Just outside the current city of Jerusalem, the place is now called Golgotha, the place of the skull or Calvary – where Jesus was crucified
- What a beautiful picture the offering of Isaac was of God the Father offering His willing son on a cross
 - Now keep following the picture

Then in Chapter 23 – Isaac, who in 22 was a picture of who _____, was not mentioned, not seen, until now chapter 24, when - the Father gets a bride for his son.

- Just like Jesus who, after His death and resurrection is off the scene until what time - Until it is time to get His bride – well the picture continues in chapter 24

As we go through chapter 24, maybe it would help to follow this outline – let's look at them one at a time

Genesis Chapter 24

#1 - The Will of the Father – Genesis 24:1-9

#2 - The Witness of the Servant – Genesis 24:10-49

#3 - The Willingness of the Bride – Genesis 24:50-60

#4 - The Welcome of the Bridegroom – Genesis 24:61-67

Genesis Chapter 24

#1 - The Will of the Father – Genesis 24:1-9

- Abraham comes to the servant who is not named here
 - Most believe this is Eliezer of Damascus – the same servant would have inherited all of Abraham's stuff if Abraham had had no kids –but this servant, is not named

And again I believe it is because of the picture, Abraham is the Father, Isaac is the son, and that would make this servant, going to get a bride for Isaac, a picture of the Holy Spirit

- and from what we know of the Holy Spirit, Jesus says of Him that He will not testify of Himself

“when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself;” – John 16:13 KJV

- and so fitting with the picture, this servant, who is almost certainly Eliezer of Damascus, is not named
 - but although he is not named, he has a job to do and a promise to make

Abraham has the man put his hand under his thigh

- It was the way of making agreements – you were literally saying, if you don't keep your end of the bargain, may this area of yours involved in reproduction be doomed – heavy
 - I prefer handshakes and sign on the dotted line much better.
 - But this was the custom – and it was serious – you had a ton of this man's wealth, you could run off with it, you could not fulfill your duty, so this promise was made
- The father sends the servant out to find a bride for His son.

And I love what we see in these verses.

- The servant wants to know what to do if the girl doesn't want to go?
 - The answer is do not force her

Again what a beautiful picture of what the Holy Spirit does with us. – He is a perfect gentleman

- God will do everything He can to woo you to His side, it is Him that initiates
 - But you still have to respond to His initiation – God will not force you to love Him and we will see this seen again later on in the chapter

So verse 7 are the last words in the scripture of Father Abraham

- He starts out a little shaky at times but these last words are full of faith, that God is going to show up big time in His family and keep His word to them

Genesis Chapter 24

#1 - The Will of the Father – Genesis 24:1-9

#2 - The Witness of the Servant – Genesis 24:10-49

- Don't forget this really happened
 - I want you to see the picture of God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the church
 - But don't forget this is really happening

This servant has gone out to find a bride for His master's son

- He has sworn a pretty serious oath that He will do all He can to help this happen
 - So what would you do after traveling 1,000's of miles and spending several months on the road
 - You would pray, and that is what this servant does
- Lord I will know you have brought me a bride for Isaac, because I will ask her for a drink, and she will not only offer me a drink, she will offer one to my camels as well

I love this – this servant is not asking for a miracle, he is not asking God to stop the normal experiences of life.

- but at the same time he wants to know that He knows this is the one

Then as he is praying – Rebecca comes on the scene

- and the Bible says verse 16 she was very beautiful to behold
 - that means she was a Hebrew Hottie
 - and I see the servant just thinking oh – this could be the one

- And so he says to her, can I have a drink of water, waiting for her response
 - Please say you will water my camels, please say you will water my camels
 - And then she says – sure, and let me water your camels as well
- Oh how the joy of the Lord must have filled his heart at that moment
 - Lord you were listening to my prayer!!!

By the way God does hear your prayer

- And even more than that God answers them
 - With either a yes, no or wait.
 - But our job is to not to figure out what God is doing, it is to trust and leave my prayers in His hands
 - If I truly believe God is good, if I truly believe God is on my side
- Then I just need to let my requests be made known to God, knowing He will do the best for me

The servant trusts the Lord and the lord brings this girl who is very beautiful, and a virgin

- She was beautiful and pure.
 - Now again remember the picture God is building in this real story

Abraham is a type of God the Father

- Isaac is a type of God the Son
 - The Servant is a type of God the Holy Spirit who was been sent to gather a bride for the Son
 - And if you are following along, that makes Rebecca a type of you and me – the bride of Christ

Hold on – wait a second, this is the where the picture breaks down for me

- I can see how Father Abraham is a type of God the Father
 - I see how Isaac and this servant are types of God the son and God the Holy Spirit
 - But Rebecca, the girl who is beautiful and pure is suppose to be a picture of me
 - Well, the picture just doesn't fit

She was beautiful and pure

- And I'm anything but those two things
 - Oh church - here is where it gets good, check this out

These pictures in the Old Testament are from the artist's perspective. In other words, God is telling you this is how God sees you

- Abraham didn't really only have one son – but that is how God saw it
 - and you, you might not be the most pure, or lovely especially when compared to others
- Maybe you feel beat down and used
 - But think this through with me

The servants account was that Rebecca was stunning, just a picture of beauty, but lets consider for this a moment what she really appeared like in this moment

- what was she doing when the servant put this description of here down
 - she was watering his ten camels

Now if you picture Rebecca with a hose, you know filling up a few buckets in a few minutes, you have the wrong picture in your mind

- to understand what a wonder this was, we must understand that the ancient well was a large deep hole in the earth with steps leading down to a spring
 - so each drawing of water required substantial effort
- Now you add to that understanding that a camel typically would drink about 25 gallons of water
 - That's 250 gallons to water them all

Now the average ancient water jar that Rebecca was hauling up and down these well steps was three gallons

- an average of three gallons
 - that means to water all these camels, Rebecca made between 80 to 100 descents and accents down and up those stairs – that would be hours of hard work
 - So she was no doubt sweaty, hair all over the place, maybe a little stinky
- And the servant says – there is a women of great beauty

And this ministers to my heart in a couple ways

- number one – the Lord sees us through eyes of grace, not where we are currently in the flesh
 - Paul the apostle said.

“Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh” – II Corinthians 5:16

- I have the tendency to look at people and see them where they are right now in their struggles, right now in their shortcomings
 - God has the ability to see what we will look like after He has been to work on us for a while

So you can say, Rebecca – beautiful and pure, not a picture of me

- But God would say – oh no, you just keep drawing near and you have no idea what I am going make you become
 - That ministers to my heart

But the other thing that ministers to my heart, Rebecca standing there, dripping with sweat, hair all crazy, smelling a little funky – the servant saying – she is so beautiful

- that teaches me that there is more to beauty than having it all together physically
 - I'm sure Rebecca really was beautiful outwardly
 - But clearly she was inwardly as well
- I'm sure the servant was thinking – if this gal is the kind of girl that would be that much of a servant for a bunch of camels
 - Have you ever been around camels –they smell horrible
 - If she would do that for a bunch of stinky camels, image the blessing for Isaac, I'm just saying
- There was more to Rebecca than outward beauty
 - And girls you need to realize this
 - And Men you need to look for this

I remember when I was first hearing about Christy. She was speaking at some women's event and Mrs. Danyew, the second grade teacher was raving about her, while I fixing desks in her class room

- when she got back, I watched – I watched this girl read her Bible on her breaks out in the courtyard

- I watch her care for second graders and there snotty noses

And don't misunderstand me, my wife is a beauty outwardly – but she also has an inner beauty that won me over

Now that the servant has found the girl, and she passes this test, the servant praises God and say something interesting in verse 27 - “Being on the way, the Lord lead me”

- He doesn't say, Abraham gave such good directions praise God I found this girl
 - Or He doesn't say, I have such great insight, I am such a great match maker
 - He says “Being on the way, the Lord lead me”

I think this if great for us who struggle with knowing what God has for our lives – and we have the tendency to complicate the issue so much

- When I was in Bible College, we had a teacher who told us that he didn't do anything before getting special revelation for the Lord. – Lord Corn flakes or Cheerios. And I though this was the way to go, this was a spiritual man.
 - I understand his heart, but that way of thinking got me into a lot of trouble, not doing what was clearly from God because I needed special revelation – I was afraid to make decisions

Now when it come to specific decisions we need to make, I do think God has given us a model in His word to make wise, God given decisions

- That is for another study

But sometimes we begin to fear, not specially one issue, that needs a decision right away, but general things like what does God want me to do with my life.

- And I think this verse we just read gives us great insight
 - As the servant of God was on the way, The Lord lead him
- If he just prayed in Beersheba – Lord lead me, he would have never met Rebecca

We need to get moving – you have heard Pastor Rob say before, “It is easier to steer a moving car than one that is parked.”

- often one step leads to another – Calvary chapel Los Angeles – I was so settled on being here forever, but that got me to pray
 - now it wasn't the Lord, but it lead me to be open to moving to Texas – as I was going the Lord lead me

This servant was not being disobedient, He was not in rebellion

- He was on the way
 - I find it interesting that the early church, the church in the book of Acts, was called???
 - The way
- And Christian, here is a beautiful truth in scripture
 - Your job is not to figure out all that God has for
 - You should be praying, but...
 - Your job is to love the Lord, meditate in His word, and be on the way, not in rebellion, not trying to do your own thing – just be on the way, the way God has for you and God will lead you

Well back to our story

- The servant praises God for leading him to Rebecca, Rebecca invites him to come to her family
 - And then we meet Laban, Rebecca's brother
 - He is a shady character that will greatly influence Rebecca's future son, Jacob – but we will start to look at that in a few weeks
- But the servant recounts the story that we have all heard
 - They give him permission to take Rebecca to marry Isaac, but then they want him to wait a while to really go

Just wait 10 days they say

- and that phrase 10 days is often used in the scripture not to refer to 10 literal 24 hour days, but a short period of time
 - couple weeks, couple month – 10 days

The servant wants none of that – most likely lead by the Spirit

- there is no telling what Laban would have pulled if given enough time, if you know the Jacob, and Rachel and Leah story from Genesis
 - so, the Lord was leading the servant to go
 - but Laban and the rest of the family say, well that is up to Rebecca and that leads me to our next point

Genesis Chapter 24

#1 - The Will of the Father – Genesis 24:1-9

#2 - The Witness of the Servant – Genesis 24:10-49

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- and even though they can see it is the Lord at work
- Even though they are being blessed by simply being around Rebecca
 - They don't want her to go just yet

And here again we have a great picture of the world and how it tries to influence us.

- Oh, they may see the Lord's work in your life
 - They may be blessed by you, and God's blessing upon you
 - But when it comes to leaving all for the Lord, their response is always; don't get so serious, not yet.

The church thing is fine, on Sundays, but not during the week, - stay home and watch MacGyver. – Now what is the benefit of that, you know how to make a bomb with gum and package of sweetener.

- But that is the call, don't go all the way

And don't go yet.

- Wait until you are old to serve the Lord.
 - Oh realize this friends we will see this in the death of Abraham next week
- If you wait until you are old to become wise in the Lord, you will only be an old fool
 - The world is full of old fools, who never took time to seek the Lord when they were young.

Solomon a man who had it all said – Eccl 11:9 and on

“Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your

eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment. Therefore remove sorrow from your heart, And put away evil from your flesh, for childhood and youth are vanity.” – Ecclesiastes 11:9

Then Chapter 12, goes on to say “Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them... Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all" - Ecclesiastes 12:1,13

- the time is now to serve the Lord not later, because then you will have been too effected by the way you live your life
 - It is a heavy thing to consider, but we must

The way you live now, affects who you are later.

- So when the world says “Don’t get too serious.”
 - Realize the best thing you can do is be serious for the Lord
 - I am tired of this attitude in this generation
- When the world says “wait”
 - Realize the is no later, not in a spiritual sense

Because if you choose to wait, if you choose to be half hearted, you are going to miss out

- Be like Rebecca who said, I will go now, I will follow this man, the Spirit, to my Lord, my husband.
 - Great example to us.
- I want to expand on this next week, because that thought is amplified in chapter 25, be here!!
 - But let move on to our final point

Genesis 24

#1 - The Will of the Father – Genesis 24:1-9

#2 - The Witness of the Servant – Genesis 24:10-49

#3 - The Willingness of the Bride – Genesis 24:50-60

#4 - The Welcome of the Bridegroom – Genesis 24:61-67

- Rebecca goes with the servant, and they come, after much travel, thousands of miles, several months - to the Land of Canaan
 - And Isaac comes from Beer Lahai Roi
 - That means, “The well of the Living One and seeing one.”
- Some quick closing thoughts

For you that are married

- Verse 67, say Isaac loved her
 - The word there in Hebrew speaks of friendship, attraction, and devotion – its all there - He just loved her – think about the first experience
- The English says, she demounted her camel – that is really nice, the Hebrew is literally, she fell, she was overwhelmed by the moment, and she fell off the camel – and I picture that just being their first moment – Isaac loved his bride, just the way she was
- We need to hear that – I heard of a pastor that went to India and the American pastor was saying to the Indian Pastor who had a son of marrying age, is there anyone your son is interested in

His response – why does it matter if he is interested in anyone. In India we pick his wife for him. And then he said, You American's marry people you love, in Indian we love the people we marry

- Now think about that - We marry the ones we love, in India we love the ones we marry
 - Nothing wrong with marrying the one you love – that is preferred – but We need to love the ones we marry
 - To realize we made a commitment before God and to them and we are going to choose to honor that commitment
 - Good word for the married

And to the unmarried

- How do I get my man
 - girls she was just following the Spirit
 - she was lead by the Lord
 - and guys this is the kind of girl you want
- girls he came from the well of the Living One – that is kind of guys you want

Abraham is picture of the Father

Isaac is a picture of the Son

The Servant is a picture of the Holy Spirit

Rebecca is a picture of you and me

- but is she?
 - Are we beautiful on the inside – I know God is at work, but are we in the process
 - Are we willing to follow the Spirit
 - Are we willing to be the Lord's
 - I pray Rebecca is a picture of you and me, if no, maybe there are some changes that can be made.