
Day 10 - January 10

Period of the Patriarchs (2100 -1525 BCE)
Abraham Arranges Wife for Isaac

Readings: *Genesis 24:1-67*

Reflections:

- “...the Lord has blessed him in every way.” We see here that Abraham the friend of God was blessed because of his close trust based relationship with God. God’s grace is holistic and has the potential to reach every dimension of our lives.
- It is striking that Abraham understood or knew that God would send an angel to go before his servant to line everything up. This is a rare window into the spiritual realm to understand how God uses angels to prepare things to align to God’s will.
- The servant asks God for specific guidance in discerning God’s direction. We see here again the very relational nature of what it means to follow or trust God. There is a clear expectation that God is actively involved in daily life and seeking to partner in true relationship.
- Rebekah is a picture of faithfulness. She is hard working, a servant, and willing to do whatever it takes to do the right thing. She is also the picture of beauty and innocence. She is described as both outwardly and inwardly beautiful.
- The fact that Rebekah was a relative or kin shows that God had worked out even smaller details to ensure that there was a good basis of trust and relationship. It was definitely a sign to the servant that God was in this. Within Israel, it is vital to remain with the covenant relationships of the family God had chosen to work with.
- At the end of the story everyone realizes this is God at work. Here is a great line. “Laban and Bethuel answered, ‘This is from the Lord; we can say nothing to you one way or the other. Here is Rebekah; take her and go and let her become the wife of your master’s son, as the Lord has directed.’” A simple but basic statement of faith knowing that they have discerned God’s will. It is a good reminder that in all important decisions we must be diligent to discern God’s leading.
- Now Rebekah is still given a choice. She could have said no. This shows again that knowing God’s will does not eliminate the need for us to agree with his will. He gives us that option to say no. She decides to trust that this is God as well and takes her own huge step of faith.

It is hard to imagine what it would be like to leave everything and everyone you know in following what seems to be God's leading, especially in deciding to marry someone you have never seen before. In this time period though, arranged marriages were much more common. The security of these marriages rested in the full support of the families.

- This great story ends with a wonderful conclusion, "So she became his wife and he loved her and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death." There is always a mix of joy and sorrow in life, the celebration of the new and the grieving of the passing of the old. This brings to mind the wisdom of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 that begins by saying, "There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the sun."