

## Good Attitudes that Build Great Families: Wives, Part II

Ephesians 5:22-24; Genesis 24-27 (excerpts)

June 29, 2003 Pastor Harry Skeele

### Introduction:

### I. The Story of Isaac and Rebekah

#### A. The Search for a Bride

The LORD, the God of heaven, he will send his angel before you so that you can get a wife for my son from there. Gen 24:7

She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. Prov 31:20

"O LORD, God of my master Abraham, give me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham. <sup>13</sup> See, I am standing beside this spring, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. <sup>14</sup> May it be that when I say to a girl, 'Please let down your jar that I may have a drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels too'-let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac." Gen 24:12-14

<sup>15</sup> Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder. <sup>16</sup> The girl was very beautiful, a virgin; no man had ever lain with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jar and came up again. <sup>17</sup> The servant hurried to meet her and said, "Please give me a little water from your jar." <sup>18</sup> "Drink, my lord," she said, and quickly lowered the jar to her hands and gave him a drink. <sup>19</sup> After she had given him a drink, she said, "I'll draw water for your camels too, until they have finished drinking." <sup>23</sup> Then he asked, "Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?" <sup>24</sup> She answered him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son that Milcah bore to Nahor." <sup>26</sup> Then the man bowed down and worshiped the LORD, <sup>27</sup> saying, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of my master Abraham . . . the LORD has led me on the journey to the house of my master's relatives." Gen 24:15-27

#### B. The Marriage Blossoms

<sup>62</sup> Now Isaac had come from Beer Lahai Roi, for he was living in the Negev. <sup>63</sup> He went out to the field one evening to meditate, and as he looked up, he saw camels approaching. <sup>64</sup> Rebekah also looked up and saw Isaac. She got down from her camel <sup>65</sup> and asked the servant, "Who is that man in the field coming to meet us?" "He is my master," the servant answered. So she took her veil and covered herself. <sup>66</sup> Then the servant told Isaac all he had done. <sup>67</sup> Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he married Rebekah. So she became his wife, and he loved her; and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death. Gen 24:62-67

<sup>21</sup> Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was barren. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. <sup>22</sup> The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. Gen 25:21,22

#### C. The Marriage in Decay

<sup>2</sup> Isaac said, "I am now an old man and don't know the day of my death. <sup>3</sup> Now then, get your weapons-your quiver and bow-and go out to the open country to hunt some wild game for me. <sup>4</sup>

Prepare me the kind of tasty food I like and bring it to me to eat, so that I may give you my blessing before I die." <sup>5</sup> Now Rebekah was listening as Isaac spoke to his son Esau. When Esau left for the open country to hunt game and bring it back, <sup>6</sup> Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "Look, I overheard your father say to your brother Esau, <sup>7</sup> 'Bring me some game and prepare me some tasty food to eat, so that I may give you my blessing in the presence of the LORD before I die.' <sup>8</sup> Now, my son, listen carefully and do what I tell you: <sup>9</sup> Go out to the flock and bring me two choice young goats, so I can prepare some tasty food for your father, just the way he likes it. <sup>10</sup> Then take it to your father to eat, so that he may give you his blessing before he dies." Gen 27:2-10

**Clue 1: Competing \_\_\_\_\_ fractures marital \_\_\_\_\_.**

<sup>27</sup> The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was a quiet man, staying among the tents. <sup>28</sup> Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob. Gen 25:27,28

**Clue 2: His \_\_\_\_\_ shatters oneness; she loses \_\_\_\_\_ for him.**

So Isaac stayed in Gerar. <sup>7</sup> When the men of that place asked him about his wife, he said, "She is my sister," because he was afraid to say, "She is my wife." He thought, "The men of this place might kill me on account of Rebekah, because she is beautiful." <sup>10</sup> Then Abimelech said, "What is this you have done to us? One of the men might well have slept with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us." Gen 26:6-10

**Clue 3: She did not take creative \_\_\_\_\_ to work for the \_\_\_\_\_ of her family.**

<sup>12</sup> Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year reaped a hundredfold, because the LORD blessed him. <sup>13</sup> The man became rich, and his wealth continued to grow until he became very wealthy. <sup>14</sup> He had so many flocks and herds and servants that the Philistines envied him. Gen 26:12-14

## **II. Application: what should we do?**

**1. Submission involves pursuit of \_\_\_\_\_ . (Eph 5:22)**

As the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands. Eph 5:24

**2. Submission includes \_\_\_\_\_ and respectful \_\_\_\_\_. (I Peter 3)**

<sup>3</sup>Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. <sup>4</sup>Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. <sup>5</sup>For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, <sup>6</sup>like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. I Peter 3

**3. Submission means taking creative \_\_\_\_\_ to work for the welfare of the marriage and the family. (Gen 2:24; Prov 31:23)**

Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land. Prov 31:23