

The Beginning of a Great Journey Genesis 24:59-67

I. Introduction – God is a `missional God` He is a God of missions

A. What verse comes to mind when you think of the word, “missions“?

- Most of us are hard pressed to name more than the old faithful Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20)
- However, the Bible has a lot more to say on the subject of missions than just the Great Commission.
- Missions permeate every book of the Bible. It is in fact the theme of the Bible.

B. Since creation, God is interested in redeeming people to Himself

- What is the chief end of man? “Man`s chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever“ (Westminster Catechism)
- The Bible, in light of God`s heart for the world, from Genesis to Revelation He is beckoning you and I and all of His people to join Him in bringing every people group to His throne to worship.
- “Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate.”
- “Missions exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more.” John Piper

C. Missions is not the church`s idea or the pastor`s idea...it`s God`s

- The Bible is not a collection of separate books with no common theme or story. It is one book with one theme.
- It is one book with one theme. God`s story has;
 - an introduction: Genesis 1-11
 - a plot: Genesis 12 - Jude
 - a conclusion: Revelation.
 - 66 books with one theme – missions so many may worship.

II. Concluding our study of this wonderful picture

A father sending a servant to find a bride for his son.

A. Let`s Read Genesis 24:59-67

B. This chapter is a great picture of the believer's relationship with Jesus Christ. Rebekah is sought by the father as a bride for his son. Likewise, you were sought by God as a bride for His Son Jesus Christ.

C. Teresa and I like to watch TV in the evenings to relax.

- Occasionally, the program will start with the characters in a terrible situation or in the hospital. Teresa and I look at each other totally surprised, wondering “what happened?“
- It`s not long before a caption informs the viewers that the program is now going to show us what events lead up to the characters getting into trouble or at the hospital.

D. Let`s go back and let me explain what has lead us to seeing Rebekah preparing to see Isaac.

III. **Genesis 24: 10-28** A father sending a servant to find a bride for his son

A. m&m`s for the journey (trip snack bag)

- to win a soul or to obtain a bride requires a **sense of a mission**.

v.10 Eliezer prepares for a journey and departs.

The reason the servant is departing is because he has been commissioned by his master to go and find a bride. He was on a *sacred mission*.

You may be saying, "Charlie it's alright, the Lord is going to save His people." Yes, but He has commissioned us to go after a bride for His son.

- to win a soul required the **sharing of a message** (gossip the gospel)

v. 10 King James version mentioned that when Eliezer departed *he had in his hands all the goods of his master*. (figuratively speaking)

What the bible is telling us is this, when Eliezer went after a bride for the son, Eliezer had **all the Father offered to give to the future bride**.

Do you see the significance of this? This is a wonderful message to carry. When you go after someone in need of a Savior, what you can tell them is that *everything they need is found in Christ*, every desirer that ultimately counts, every joy that ultimately matters, everything you ultimately need is found in Christ.

This reminds of what the apostle Paul wrote in *Romans 8:32*

"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"

Eliezer had all of the goods of the father in his hands when he went after a bride. So, it is when you go after a lost world in need of a Savior, you have a powerful message in your hand.

You have everything that a sinner needs, it is found in the person of Jesus Christ. Don't be ashamed to tell somebody of their need for a Savior.

Eliezer was on a mission and he had a message!

- We see that Eliezer not only had a **sense of a mission**, not only did he have a **wonderful message**, but to acquire a bride required **sensitivity to the method**
 - a) *go into pockets of people* (Luke 10:1)
"where you go the King goes and where the King goes the powers that bind have to bow" Neil Cole
 - b) Not only to go where the people are, you *trust the Spirit for guidance* . . . It's found there in verse 12 "I pray thee . . . send me good speed" (KJV).
 - c) You must *be patient with God* . . .
The bible says in vs. 21, that Eliezer held "held his peace"
The work of the Spirit in the hearts of sinners is both invisible and mysterious. It doesn't happen overnight.

Eliezer came to well where the people gathered. He asked the Lord for guidance and then he was patient, waiting for the opportunity to share his message.

I want to ask you today, "Is God speaking to you?"

IV. Genesis 24:29-33; 49-58 A decision to follow can bring opposition

A. Obedience can be Costly

- What will your answer be? Let me show you from our text that when a decision comes to follow after this man we call Christ opposition will come.

B. They will come in three places found in these verses.

- Opposition may come from people who are close to you –

The bible says in verse 29 of our text "*Rebekah had a brother*"

- *Laban* illustrates those who will discourage you in your walk with Christ.

Laban represents those who are captivated by the things of this world . . . (v.30)

When Laban "saw" the earrings and bracelet, he opened his heart and his home to the messenger. Later on we find Laban deceives Jacob (his nephew) for money. He lies to him by telling Jacob that he will give him Rachel, but instead Laban gives Jacob his eldest daughter Leah. All for the sake of prosperity.

There are a lot of people who will discourage you from your walk with Christ, because their eyes are focused on the things of this world.

- Laban represents those who are conveniently Christian in their faith. .

Notice what Laban says in verse 31. "Come in, thou blessed of the Lord."

Notice his language, "Come in, O blessed of the Lord." He knows the lingo, he knows the talk.

- Laban represents those who are "Christians" in name and language but are lost in terms of nature and lifestyle.

They hinder you by trying to convince you that you are too extreme or too fanatical in your walk with Christ.

- ✓ Example of Collin / market place ministry
- ✓ Listen to what Watchman Nee says in this book.

"Most people are so subnormal in their lives that when a Christian lives the normal Christian life he seems abnormal to most,"

- Opposition may come from plans made for you

"Let her

abide with us . . ." (v.55)

- Bethuel and Laban had plans for Rebekah. They request that Rebekah stay put for at least ten days -- then she shall go.

Eliezer responds, "Hinder me not."

Can you imagine the battle that Rebecca faced? She is confronted by her dad, mom, and brother. Rebecca for heavens sake we have raised you and given everything you have. And now you have heard of this man and you are asked to follow after him? Can you not at least give us 10 days?

- Let me tell you something when it comes to following after Christ in obedience. When you have come to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action. It's what you do next that will determine what you really believe.

- Opposition may come from pressures around you
"They called Rebekah" in verse 58 and then asked "Will you go with this man?"

Let's stop and imagine the tone. The tone is not seen in the black and white of the text, so let's set the scene.

In verse 51, they have given their consent which prompted Eliezer to shower them with gifts. (v. 53)

- But now the "rubber hits the road" it is time to go and the parents are having second thoughts. They have already pleaded for 10 more days, so now their last plea is to leave it up to Rebekah their daughter, the one they have poured their lives into. Let's ask her, "Will you go with this man, and leave us!"
- The great C.S. Lewis tells us,
"The moment you wake up each morning, all your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists in shoving it all back; in listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other, larger, stronger, quiet life come flowing in,"

V. **Genesis 24:59 – 67**

- A. This last section of verses is a great picture of the believer's relationship with Jesus Christ. Rebekah is sought by the father as a bride for his son. Likewise, you were sought by God as a bride for His Son Jesus Christ.
- B. After you say, "I will go," you begin a journey that culminates in a face-to-face meeting with Christ. Rebekah's journey portrays the believer's life of faith.
- C. Let me show you a few things about this journey. To try to encourage you in your walk with Christ.
 - The life of faith in Christ commences with a decision
We saw Rebekah's decision when she was asked, "Wilt thou go with this man?" She said, "I will go."

Notice the personal nature of the decision. "I" will go. The life of faith does not commence with the parents' decision, the church's decision, or your friend's decision. It begins with a decision that you make to have Christ as your Lord.

To follow after the Lord Jesus for Him to be your Savior and your Lord, is a decision you must make, nobody else. This is a personal relationship.

- Second, not only does the life of faith in Christ commence with a decision... The life of faith in Christ **continues through discipleship**

When Rebekah decided to follow the man she began a journey, just like when you decided to follow Christ you started a spiritual journey.

Along this journey several things happened to Rebecca.

Which is a picture of what happens to me and you once we become a Christian and we begin that road home to Christ.

- You and I, like Rebecca, learn of the person and attributes of our groom

I want you to imagine this, remember Rebecca had never laid eyes upon Isaac. She has never seen him. She was going on pure and simple faith. She had been told by somebody else about “this man”. And she said, “I will follow after him! I will go!”

All along the way I am sure she bombarded Eliezer with questions. “What’s he like?” “Tell me more” “How powerful is he?” “How rich is he?” “Do many people know him?”

- Your journey will be rocky unless your feet are planted on something more solid than your commitment or your fidelity. On Christ the solid Rock I stand. *“The people who do **know** their God shall be strong and do mighty things” (Daniel 11:32).*

- Like Rebecca when we make a decision to follow after Christ and start on that faith journey we learn to lean upon the promise of His acceptance.

She is probably thinking here I am on my way to meet this man I have never met and I don’t even know if he will accept me.

I am sure she is worried and concerned, so she turns to Eliezer and asks, “How do you know he will welcome me?” “How do you know he will let me into his house?”

“How do you know that I am not wasting my time and my life on this journey?”

Eliezer says to her, “Because of his promise.”

- There will be times, like Rebecca, when you will doubt your standing before God, but it is His promise of justification that gets you through the rocky times.
 - When all of your sins flash before you or in the mirror of your mind’s eye you see all the warts and blemishes of your life, which causes you to wonder, like Rebecca, “why would He receive me”.
 - I remind you that it is then that you need to lean upon His promise of justification of faith in Him.
- I will close by showing you this, Not only do we see like Rebecca that the life of faith in Christ commences with a decision and continues through discipleship but I also want you to see that..

- The life of faith in Christ concludes with a **declaration**
When Isaac meets Rebecca for the first time face-to-face, four wonderful words are used to describe this meeting. (show picture of Josh & Hannah)

They are found in verse 67, “and he loved her.”
Christ loved him” “and Christ loved her” “and Christ loves me”

Wow! “and

All of eternity will be God expressing His great love for the bride He has chosen.

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherein he loved us, hath quickened us . . . that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:4-5,7).

The bible says in our text in verse 65 that when Rebecca lifted up her eyes she saw Isaac walking in the field to meet them.

I would say to you that Jesus Christ is walking in the fields to meet us.

It is important to connect what is happening in Revelation with what God started in Genesis 12 in the life of Abraham. God will do it. There will be a representative from every nation, tribe, people, and language bowing and worshipping at His feet. Heaven is multicultural. God is a missionary God, and from cover to cover

He is showing us His mission.