



Genesis – 24:15 -24:67
The Work of the Servant
(Lesson #33)

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Outline For Today:

- Introduction to Rebekah (24:15-16)
- Servant's Question (24:17)
- Rebekah's Response (24:18-21)
- Servant's Actions and Inquiry (24:22-23)
- Rebekah's Answers (24:24-25)
- Servant's responses (24:26-27)
- Rebekah and Laban's Actions (24:28-32)
- The Servant's Explanation and Request (24:33-49)
- Laban and Bethuel's Response (24:50-51)
- The Servant Give Gifts (24:52-53)
- The Dinner and Planned Departure (24:54)
- The Requested Delay (24:55-58)
- The Celebratory Departure (24:59-61)
- The Meeting and the Marriage (24:62-66)

"15 Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her water jar on her shoulder. 16 The young woman was very attractive in appearance, a maiden whom no man had known. She went down to the spring and filled her jar and came up. 17 Then the servant ran to meet her and said, "Please give me a little water to drink from your jar."

Vs 15 - Before he was able to get the words out of his mouth. God is answering his prayer!

APPLICATION: Two Sunday's ago, Pastor taught on perseverance in prayer, from Luke. We saw how sometimes perseverance in our prayer life is needed. If you remember Pastor called it a **feature, not a flaw**.

That was a good word. Here is another **feature**, sometimes we pray for something, and God brings it so fast that it surprises us. **That is what is happening here!**

Before the servant can finish praying... Behold a woman shows up, a woman from the city, she could no doubt be from tens or evens hundreds of different families.

We suspect he plans to ask her the questions looking for the correct responses, that is after all, his plan! I wonder how many women he suspects he will have to ask to "find" the correct one.

This Rebekah, came out, at that precise time the servant was praying with a water jar on her shoulder to get water for the house for the evening.

HOLD UP! – So you are saying Eliezer has traveled 450 miles to Haran, and while he prays this prayer, a kinsfolk of Abraham, in fact his brother Nahor's granddaughter shows up to get water at that precise time?

He does not know that, but that is precisely what is happening.

God has sovereignly, without either individual being aware of God's providential guiding, directed them together at this precise time. That is the sovereignty of God! It is as amazing as it is mysterious!

The words of Eliezer have not even completed coming out of his mouth and bang, Rebekah shows up at the well. **Yes, this is another feature of prayer. Sometimes God answers immediately!**

Vs 16 - So we are just provided with a couple of pieces of information about Rebekah that he would not yet know:

- 1) She is a **relative**
- 2) Now we learn she is **beautiful**
- 3) We also learn she is a **virgin**
- 4) We also see that she is **industrious**, she is providing for her parent's home

She goes down to the spring to get water, at this precise time.

Vs 17 - So Eliezer is thinking, it is time to begin my questions, and hopefully, I will find the woman that God sent.

Notice, he **"runs"** to meet her, and he says: exactly what he had told God he was going to say: **"Please give me a little water to drink from your jar."**

ELIEZER'S SANDLES: Be sure to put yourself in Eliezer's sandals. You prayed your plan. Now it is a question of how long this will take before God leads you to the right woman.

Vs 18-21 She said, "Drink, my lord." And she quickly let down her jar upon her hand and gave him a drink. 19 When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking." 20 So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough and ran again to the well to draw water, and she drew for all his camels. 21 The man gazed at her in silence to learn whether the LORD had prospered his journey or not.

Vs 18 - So far so good, she says drink my Lord and then she quickly takes down the jar and provides him with water!

- 5) She is **kind** and even **hospitable** to this stranger

Vs 19-20 - Then she says: **"I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking."**

Bingo!!! DING, DING, DING!

Notice also, she quickly emptied her jar into the trough, and she **ran** back to the well! There were ten camels, this would have been a **great deal** of water that she likely drew. Drawing water for 10 camels is a **BIG task**.

SO YOU KNOW: On wildlifefaq.com It states that camels can drink up to **53 gallons** in one sitting. Drawing water for 10 camels is no small chore.

So she empties her water in the trough that is at the well for this very purpose and runs and gets more water. **Precisely** what Eliezer has prayed for has happened.

What we now know about her:

- 6) She is the **ONE!** She is the answer to prayer, just like he prayed it!

What is going through his mind?

Vs 21 - Put yourself in **Eliezer's shoes**, you have prayed, and exactly what you asked for has been provided. **So he is just standing there in silent amazement**, seeking to learn: ***whether the LORD had prospered his journey or not.***

It's kind of funny to me. She is the one, but it happened so fast, it seems **Eliezer wonders, if she is the one!**

Vs 22-24 - ***When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring weighing a half shekel, and two bracelets for her arms weighing ten gold shekels, 23 and said, "Please tell me whose daughter you are. Is there***

room in your father's house for us to spend the night?" 24 She said to him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor."

Vs 22 - So it appears that Eliezer stand there while Rebekah waters all ten camels. This would have taken a minute or two! Then, when the camels had finished drinking, he takes a gold ring and two gold bracelets and pops them on Rebekah!

Imagine what she is thinking!

Two points here:

One - there is a **debate** is this is an earring or a nose ring.

Two - when **Eliezer explains this event here in a few verses**, he will say that he actually did not place the jewelry on her until she indicated who her kinspeople were.

Vs 23 - Then Eliezer pops two questions: *"Please tell me whose daughter you are. Is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?"*

Vs 24 - *She said to him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor."*

If you are Eliezer, what is going through your mind? **Bingo!!! DING, DING, DING!**

Vs 25-28 - She added, "We have plenty of both straw and fodder, and room to spend the night." 26 The man bowed his head and worshiped the LORD 27 and said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken his steadfast love and his faithfulness toward my master. As for me, the LORD has led me in the way to the house of my master's kinsmen." 28 Then the young woman ran and told her mother's household about these things.

Vs 25 - Here is what is going through his mind. She is the one I prayed for, against all odds, she is the one. And they have plenty of straw and feed as well as provisions for Eliezer and the men with him to stay the night!

Vs 26-27 - He worships... It is the only reasonable response. God has directed his steps, God has led him 450 miles directly to a wife for Isaac, a beautiful young maiden, a virgin, a kinsperson of Abraham.

APPLICATION: Do we believe God can do this in our lives. Do we believe He can work through the **details**, work through **other people**, work through a host of things to bring events together for his glory and OUR GOOD.

Eliezer as for me: *the LORD has led me in the way to the house of my master's kinsmen.*

Two Questions:

- **Where is God leading you and I for His glory?**
- **Do we believe God can answer prayer so amazing and so audacious as this.**

Two Reminders:

"The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will." (Pr 21:1 ESV)

"You do not have because you do not ask." (Jas 4:2b NKJV)

God has showed up and showed out!

Vs 28 – Rebekah is **running** again! **Notice, she goes and tells her mother's household what happened!**

Vs 29-31 - Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban. Laban ran out toward the man, to the spring. 30 As soon as he saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister's arms, and heard the words of Rebekah his sister, "Thus the man spoke to me," he went to the man. And behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring. 31 He said, "Come in, O blessed of the LORD. Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house and a place for the camels."

Vs 29-30 - Rebekah's gets home and also tells her brother, his name is Laban.

As soon as **Laban saw the gold** and heard the story, he **ran** in the direction of the spring to find the man that his sister has just told him about.

Now it appears that like Rebekah, Laban is excited, but it appears his excitement is because of the golden ring and bracelets he sees on his sister.

I do not want to prejudge Laban, but I want you to see, at least for the moment, he appears to be driven by other motives, other than the glory of God!

She is like, I left him at the well and **Laban is gone - BANG... Running** for the well.

APPLICATION: It appears that Laban was motivated by the material things, not spiritual things. **This is a tragedy** and may it never be true for any of us!

Vs 31 - Notice, what Laban says: *come in O blessed of Yahweh!*

Now as best we can tell from the text, the servant has not mentioned the name of Yahweh. It is of course possible, but look at Laban's greeting to Eliezer!

Was Laban a follower of Yahweh? It seems he had a knowledge of God. It seems he had responded to that by believing, at a minimum in the existence of, not simply a God... But Yahweh!

Now it does appear that Laban is either exaggerating (lying) or he is indicating what he plans to do. Notice he says come on into the house, I have everything set for you!

Like Lot, it appears Laban was driven by what he saw. Dr. Andy Woods said in his sermon said: "**Laban was a lot, like Lot!**"

So, he listened to Rebekah for 5 seconds (or less) and then he ran out the door!

Vs 32-33 - So the man came to the house and unharnessed the camels, and gave straw and fodder to the camels, and there was water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him. 33 Then food was set before him to eat. But he said, "I will not eat until I have said what I have to say." He said, "Speak on."

Vs 32-33 - So they bring Eliezer and the men with him, into their home, and the camels likely into their barn.

There someone unharnessed the camels and got them straw and fodder.

Laban and company (by the way, he is the brother, not the father), provided Eliezer and the men with him with water to wash their feet, they bring them inside the house, and set food before them. Standard hospitality, standard decorum. But now Eliezer breaks decorum

I will not eat until I have told you what I have to say. Eliezer was on mission. He knew his mission and he was laser focused on his mission.

APPLICATION: Do you and I know our mission? Are we laser **focused on our mission?** Are we servants (like Eliezer) who stay focused on our unique mission that Jesus has given us?

He (likely Laban) says speak on! This whole event is like a fire burning in Eliezer's gut and he will not eat until he explains why he is here and what God has done.

Vs 34-38 - So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. 35 The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become great. He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male servants and female servants, camels and donkeys. 36 And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old, and to him he has given all that he has. 37 My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell, 38 but you shall go to my father's house and to my clan and take a wife for my son.'

Vs 34-35 - First – He identifies himself – I am **Abraham's servant**.

Second – What **God has done** for and even with **Abraham as far as riches and honor**. He has become great and very wealthy!

He witnesses of Yahweh and his blessings upon his master.

Vs 36-38 - He witnesses of the providence of God in the life of Abraham and his son Isaac.

Third – what God has done with Sarah and Abraham (in their old age) in giving Isaac, although he does not name him.

Forth – All that Abraham has, **he has given to Isaac, who is the only and rightful heir**.

Fifth – His Mission!

He explains why he is here in Haran.

Vs 39-41 - I said to my master, 'Perhaps the woman will not follow me.' 40 But he said to me, 'The LORD, before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you and prosper your way. You shall take a wife for my son from my clan and from my father's house. 41 Then you will be free from my oath, when you come to my clan. And if they will not give her to you, you will be free from my oath.'

Vs 39-40 - Sixth – Further **clarification** so there is no confusion. This mission will be and has been **blessed by Yahweh** and God said he would send **his angel** to bless and ensure this mission was a success.

Seventh – **Final clarification**, so that there is no confusion. The woman is to come **back to Canaan**.

APPLICATION: It is worth mentioning that the servant did not have all the details of how God would do it. Only that God would do it! **The same is true for you and I! You and I are called to walk by faith!**

Vs 41 - Eight – **Finally**, if the **woman refuses**, I am free from the oath. I have done my job. I am free and clear.

Vs 42-44 - "I came today to the spring and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you are prospering the way that I go, 43 behold, I am standing by the spring of water. Let the virgin who comes out to draw water, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," 44 and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also," let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

Vs 42-44 - That was the plan, that was what was planned in Canaan, that was 450 miles and many days ago.

Now here is what happened:

First – I came to the spring outside the city **and I prayed. Impossible sounding enough**, but that is **what I did**.

Vs 45-47 - "Before I had finished speaking in my heart, behold, Rebekah came out with her water jar on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring and drew water. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' 46 She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I will give your camels drink also.' So I drank, and she gave the camels drink also. 47 Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms.

Vs 45-46 - Second: This is what happened, **I had not even finished the prayer**.

She quickly let down her jar. I popped the questions, she said yes and then she did it

Vs 47 - Third – when this happened! Everything was happening just as I had asked it to happen!

So I asked her: *'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.'*

Fourth – once she said that, I knew she was a kinsperson, I knew God had directed my steps, I knew God had honored my master Abraham, and then: *I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms.*

Vs 48-49 - Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to take the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. 49 Now then, if you are going to show steadfast love and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, that I may turn to the right hand or to the left."

Vs 48 - Fifth – Seeing what God had done here, **I worshipped Yahweh**, he had directed my steps, he had led me the “right way” he had brought me directly to my **master's kinspeople** and clearly she is the woman.

Vs 49 - Sixth – The ask. Here is the story, here is what happened, this is it. If you are going to show love to your kinfolk, to my master, **tell me now**.

Vs 50-51 - Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, "The thing has come from the LORD; we cannot speak to you bad or good. 51 Behold, Rebekah is before you; take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the LORD has spoken."

Vs 50 - The dad and the brother answer. By the way this is the first time we learn that the dad (Bethuel is present)! **Yahweh has done this**, who are we to say a word one way or the other!

They claim this thing has come from Yahweh!

Vs 51 - She is here, take her and go so that she will be the wife of your master's son. **As Yahweh has spoken!**

Vs 52-56 - When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed himself to the earth before the LORD. 53 And the servant brought out jewelry of silver and of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave to her brother and to her mother costly ornaments. 54 ¶ And he and the men who were with him ate and drank, and they spent the night there. When they arose in the morning, he said, "Send me away to my master." 55 Her brother and her mother said, "Let the young woman remain with us a while, at least ten days; after that she may go." 56 But he said to them, "Do not delay me, since the LORD has prospered my way. Send me away that I may go to my master."

Vs 52 - I suspect worshipping God, but it could have been out of respect for Bethuel and Laban.

Vs 53 - So he brings out more **silver and gold** and beautiful **garments** and lavishes them upon Rebekah.

He also gives **costly ornaments** (he is giving gifts) to Laban (her brother) and Rebekah's mom.

The servant paid the bridal price for Rebekah. He paid the bridal price, the bridal value not only to the family, but to Rebekah herself.

APPLICATION: If you are a believer, you too have been bought with a price:

"for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body." (1Co 6:20 ESV)

Vs 54 - So they ate and drank, went to bed, got up the next morning. Looked at their host and Eliezer said: **"Send me away to my master."**

Vs 55 - Laban and his mom speak up: **"Let the young woman remain with us a while, at least ten days; after that she may go."**

We have no idea what they are thinking, **why the delay**, why ten days, etc. I cannot help but wonder, now all the excitement has worn off, **this sounds a little crazy**, maybe she should stay here for ten days, then go. Or not!

Vs 56 - Eliezer, says back to them: **"Do not delay me, since the LORD has prospered my way. Send me away that I may go to my master."**

God has blessed and God has prospered, we should **not delay**. You should send us on our way today!

APPLICATION: When we are walking with God, we should not be surprised that people come into our life to get us off our game, delay or even derail our obedience.

Vs 57-61 *They said, "Let us call the young woman and ask her." 58 And they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will go." 59 So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham's servant and his men. 60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "Our sister, may you become thousands of ten thousands, and may your offspring possess the gate of those who hate him!" 61 Then Rebekah and her young women arose and rode on the camels and followed the man. Thus the servant took Rebekah and went his way.*

Vs 57-58 - Now this is interesting, they had come up with this ten-day plan and had not even brought Rebekah into the discussion. Here let us call Rebekah and see what she says.

They call her and ask; will you go with this man and she without blinking responds: **"I will go."**

Vs 59 - So they pack them up and send them out!

Vs 60 - Not only did they pack them up, but they pronounced a blessing upon Rebekah: **"Our sister, may you become thousands of ten thousands, and may your offspring possess the gate of those who hate him!"**

This was a promise that God made to Abraham!

"I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies," (Ge 22:17 ESV)

Of course they did not know, but they are **echoing the blessings** promised by Yahweh to Abraham!

Vs 61 - So Rebekah had maidens who were coming with her, likely servant girls who were making the trip from Haran to Canaan with her.

They loaded up on camels and followed Eliezer and the men with him. Thus Eliezer took Rebekah, God having blessed his journey and headed on their way!

Vs 62-67 - Now Isaac had returned from Beer-lahai-roi and was dwelling in the Negeb. 63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening. And he lifted up his eyes and saw, and behold, there were camels coming. 64 And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she dismounted from the camel 65 and said to the servant, "Who is that man, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. 66 And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. 67 Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Vs 62-63 - Isaac had returned from Beer-lahai-roi. The “**well of the living one seeing me.**”

Anyone remember who named this well?

“13 So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me." 14 Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered.” (Ge 16:13-14 ESV)

So Isaac was returning from that well, from **Beer-lahai-roi** and was dwelling in the Negeb, the southern Judaeen desert and went out into a field to **meditate**.

Now this is the **only place** where this Hebrew word translated **meditate** is used in the entire Old Testament.

So is he praying, is he mourning the loss of this mom, is he meditating like we think of meditating today (getting quiet before God and reflecting) Scholars are not positive. But the text tells us that while in the field meditating, it was toward evening, and he lifted up his eyes and he could see the **camels coming**.

Vs 64-65 - Rebekah as she was riding on a camel looked up and in the distance she could see a man walking towards them. She dismounted from her camel and began to walk alongside Eliezer who was walking with his camel.

She said to Eliezer, who is the man that I see walking in the field towards us? He said, that is my master, I suspect he said the son or Isaac.

She took her veil and covered herself. As we understand this it was the custom of the day, and likely the first time he would see her face we be after they were married. Seeing this here will help make sense of what happens with Jacob.

Vs 66 - *And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.* Can you imagine what that conversation sounded like?

A match made in heaven, or at least totally arranged by God!

Vs 67 - Rebekah became Isaac's wife. **They were married!** He brought her into the tent that used to belong to his mother, and she became his wife.

Like Abraham had loved Sarah, Isaac loved Rebekah and she comforted him after the loss of his mother!
