



Genesis 24
A Bride for Isaac
From Sermon 1.31.21

Read *Genesis 24:1-9*

Review from Sunday's sermon: Chapter 24 is a transition chapter, as the narrative of Abraham's life draws to a close. We've seen this pivotal character chosen, called, saved, promised, blessed, tested and proven. His final ministry will be that of leaving a legacy. The focus will now shift to Isaac. Abraham commissions his most trusted servant to find a bride for Isaac. The nature, story, name, and loyalty of the servant are rich lessons for us today.

1. What were the two conditions for the bride search? 1) She could not be from the local Canaanites. 2) She needed to be from Abraham's former country/clan.

1a. Why would that matter? Abraham knew the inevitable danger of mixing/blending with the world. He raised Isaac in fear and reverence of the God of the Bible and wanted a partner for him to compliment him, not hinder him.

2. How did Abraham come to this value & position? God-given wisdom, God-given commands (leave/separate from world to place I will show you), his personal observation of Lot

3. Is this just a beautiful and wise story for us to enjoy? Or, is there also a principle for us to follow? This is far more than just a story. The entire Bible, including the New Testament, admonishes believers to be in the world, but not of the world. See also *Deuteronomy 7:2-4, 1 Corinthians 15:33, 2 Corinthians 6:14-15 & 17*

3a. Obviously, the commands here concern the most intimate of relationships: marriage. But, as pointed out on Sunday, what are other ways in which we can unite ourselves with the world to our demise? Various answers. Worldly activities when we should be at Church. inviting worldly practices/teaching into the Church. Business partnerships, friendships of influence*, what we listen to, what we watch, who we hang out with, where we hang out.

3b. On Sunday, we were challenged to consider and journal our area of struggle in interacting with the world. 1) Did you do this? Why or why not? What does that say? 2) What did you come with? 3) What changes could you make, starting this week, to break the pattern? Various Personal Answers

3c. What is the opposite of living like/with the world (and, it's equally counterproductive, by the way)? Forming a holy huddle, having no outside contact. Keeping the Gospel to ourselves. See *Acts 1:8*

4. Genesis chapter 24 continues the rich use of symbolism. Review who each Genesis character represents.

- Abraham = God the Father
- Isaac = God the Son (Jesus)
- Servant = God the Holy Spirit
- Canaan = the Unbelieving World
- Rebekah = the Church

5. How does the nameless servant symbolize the Holy Spirit? Various answers. But include: keeps all the focus on Son. Fully committed to the mission. Grants gifts to the chosen. Speaks what He hears. See also *John 16:13-14* [The very name Eliezer = comfort or help. See *John 15:26* (Advocate)]