

- ii. The faithful servant refuses to stay. This isn't the land of promise. That is elsewhere.
- C. Rebekah's quick and resolute answer matches the servant's response when Abraham commissioned him, and matches Abraham's going when the Lord called him.
- i. *Rebekah's blessing* reminds us of the blessing given to Abraham. (Compare to 22:17.)
  - ii. *Rebekah's hospitality and loving-kindness* are reminiscent of Abraham's hospitality, which is noted throughout Scripture.
  - iii. *Rebekah's willingness to leave family and home to obey* brings to mind Abraham's.

### LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- Explain why the promise to Abraham about a blessing that goes beyond Abraham and his own descendants, and must go on long after Abraham to the generations to come? (See 12:1-7; 18:18-19)
- What might *that* tell us about why God has blessed us with the blessing of Abraham? (Also see Galatians 3:7-14.)
- Why does this servant provide a picture for us as believers? In what way are we called to the same mission He was? What do we learn from him?
- What was the basis of the servant's confidence that the mission would be successful? Why did this cause him to pray? What does this tell us about prayer and the mission we are called to?
- Have you ever considered that the great commission is all about God's faithful love to His covenant with Abraham? Do you think it is?
- Why are going, praying, and guarding all essential in the walk of faith? How would a neglect of any one of these effect the mission?

## Truth for Understanding Our World (Part 16) Transferring the Covenant and Blessing to the Next Generation

Jerry Cisar — September 18, 2016

Text: Genesis 24

### Introduction (24:1)

- A. God has been faithful to His covenant promises to Abraham and blessed him in every way, but what about the next generation?
- B. *Building a faithful Gospel witness for this generation and the next.*
  - i. Abram's very first encounter with God reveals that God's covenant and call are always bigger than any one individual.
    - a) Beyond Abraham (12:3)
    - b) After Abraham. (12:7)
    - c) (See also 18:18-19)
  - ii. How will the covenant promises and blessing given to Abraham pass on to Isaac and his seed?
  - iii. How will the covenant promises and blessing given to you and me in the Gospel reach beyond us and carry on after us?

### I. Go! (24:2-10)

- A. This story is all about the future.
  - i. Abraham's parting words to his servant send him on a mission.
  - ii. The very last words of Abraham are concerned with God's purposes.

iii. Abraham trusts the Lord to fulfill the mission that he is sending his servant on.

B. This unnamed servant is charged with a serious responsibility.

i. In one sense, the fulfillment of the promises, of the covenant, rests on how faithfully he carries out this charge.

ii. In another sense, as we will see, the success of the covenant and promises rests entirely on God.

C. This unnamed servant represents all who are called to have a part in ensuring that the *the covenant and blessing go beyond us and after us*, to the ends of the earth!

D. The servant immediately sets out in obedience to the mission.

i. Abraham's response to the call of God to leave Ur (Genesis 12:4)

ii. Ten camels loaded and headed for Aram Naharaim.

## II. Pray! (24:11-27)

A. Prayer and thanksgiving are central in this scene.

i. The servant is praying for God to bring about the completion of his promise in the covenant.

ii. The evidence he asks for is no small request.

iii. What is his request? *Make me successful today...*

a) *make happen before me, or direct matters such that...*

b) This is not a prayer for success for my life, it is a prayer that God would bring about the fulfillment of what is necessary for the accomplishment of His promises.

*If we are trusting God to bring about the mission, we pray. If we are not praying, we are trusting in someone or something other than God!*

B. Before he had finished praying.

i. Matthew 6:7-8

ii. God is so faithful to His covenant that, as we set out in obedience to it, He stands ready to hear and answer.

C. Is this the one?

i. Her hospitality and willingness to work to show kindness are beyond exceptional.

ii. There is one important detail missing.

D. Worship!

## III. Guard! (24:28-60)

A. Rebekah has a brother.

B. Be on your guard.

i. Stay ten days.