

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 06 Sept ..... Genesis 01
- 2) 13 Sept ..... Genesis 02
- 3) 20 Sept ..... Genesis 03-05
- 4) 27 Sept ..... Genesis 06-07
- 5) 04 Oct ..... Genesis 08-10
- 6) 11 Oct ..... Genesis 11
- 7) 18 Oct ..... Genesis 12-14
- 8) 25 Oct ..... Genesis 15-16
- 9) 01 Nov ..... Genesis 17
- 10) 08 Nov ..... Genesis 18-20
- 11) 15 Nov ..... Genesis 21
- 12) 22 Nov ..... Genesis 22-23
- 13) 29 Nov ..... Genesis 24**

**INTRODUCTION**

- OT Dating Practice #4 – Let your dad find a wife for you. Abraham sends his servant with 10 camels to search out a wife for Isaac. Was this wife-searching serious business, or what?
- If you were a vulnerable 16 year old girl, would you go off on a moment's notice with a total stranger who told you a whopper of a story – and he's a servant of some distant, unseen, relative?

Passage	Comments
Genesis 24:1-9	<p><b>Abraham Has His Servant Find A Mate For Isaac</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv5-6. Why wasn't Isaac allowed to find a wife?</li> <li>• Criteria for a mate:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ She could not be a girl from the neighborhood</li> <li>♦ She must be a relative</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v7. But what if the girl doesn't want to marry Isaac? (then the servant is free from his oath)</li> <li>• v8. It's a done deal – there will be a wife for Isaac – and she's got the freedom to choose</li> <li>• v9. Knowledge of cultural customs is part of biblical hermeneutics (principles of interpretation). A hand under the thigh is equivalent to us swearing on the Bible</li> </ul>
Biblical Dating Principles	<p><b>What is Right or Wrong with Modern Dating?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How old should one be before being allowed to date?</li> <li>• What parameters should parents set?</li> <li>• For adults, where is the best place to find a mate?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Family reunions   <input type="checkbox"/> Let God work it out</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Local bar   <input type="checkbox"/> Church   <input type="checkbox"/> The Internet   <input type="checkbox"/> _____</li> </ul> </li> <li>• How aggressive should one be to find a mate?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> I need to get married NOW!</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> I can wait till Jesus comes</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What are the minimum requirements for marriage?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Maturity level can handle a crying infant at 2AM</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Minimum amount of wealth should be: \$ _____</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Able to Cook   <input type="checkbox"/> Able to Work   <input type="checkbox"/> Able to Clean</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> _____   <input type="checkbox"/> _____   <input type="checkbox"/> _____</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
24:10-20	<p><b>Finding a Suitable Mate can be Costly in Time &amp; Money</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v10. Ten Camels! That's a lot of stuff to carry                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ 1 camel can carry 450 lbs for 40 miles/day</li> <li>♦ 10 camels can carry 4500 lbs of stuff</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Specific praying yields timely results – "Let the right girl get water for the men and camels"                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Is such praying appropriate for us today?..... Maybe</li> <li>♦ <b>Factors to Consider:</b> Our heart's condition (are we lustful or greedy) &amp; is it within God's will for our lives</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv16-20. Added bonuses for Isaac                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Rebekah was gorgeous (inside and out)</li> <li>♦ She was a virtuous girl from the right family</li> <li>♦ She was young and athletic (she carried water "up" from the well many times and "ran back" to the well)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
24:21-61	<p><b>Excitement Ensues Over a Marriage Proposal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv21-27. The servant rightly gives thanks to God for answered prayer. It is never too early to pray for your future spouse or your future sons- &amp; daughters-in-law.</li> <li>• vv28-48. The servant recants his story how he came on behalf of Abraham. The family is "proving all things"                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Watch out for gullibility. Many spouses get hood-winked into marriage. Are such marriages still valid?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv49-56. Notice that this wise servant avoided Nahor's invite to linger a few more days by calling for a quick decision – all the facts were on the table                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Was this request for an immediate answer proper?</li> <li>♦ What was wrong for Rebekah staying an extra 10 days to say goodbye to her family and friends?</li> <li>♦ Recall that Jacob lingered at Nahor's invites, and he didn't leave his clutches till 2 wives and 10 kids later</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv55-61. Rebekah's quick and willful departure                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Rebekah was apparently old enough and mature enough to decide for herself</li> <li>♦ <b>Is it appropriate for family and friends to question the maturity &amp; wisdom of some couples getting married?</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
24:62-67	<p><b>Isaac Enters The Picture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v65. Rebekah covers herself..... WHY?</li> <li>• Isaac apparently beds Rebekah– and she becomes his wife...No ceremony, no honeymoon. Ancient marriages &amp; customs are sometimes beyond our appreciation                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Places of worship were not around yet</li> <li>♦ Priests were basically the clan elder</li> <li>♦ No indoor plumbing and minimal hygiene</li> <li>♦ So many ancient customs would be strange to us</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Other Atypical or Non-Traditional Marriages in the Bible	<p><b>Wedding Ceremonies Evolve Over Time &amp; Culturally</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Adam &amp; Eve.</b> Joined by God directly – They had no choice (But if you were a Perfect Man standing next to the only Perfect Woman, would either one say 'No'?)</li> <li>• <b>Lamech.</b> First mention of a polygamous marriage</li> <li>• <b>Jacob &amp; Leah &amp; Rachel.</b> Deceptive Wedding (Lesson Learned – Don't get drunk at your wedding). God eventually made it illegal to marry sisters ..... Leviticus 18:18</li> <li>• <b>Esther.</b> She was part of a harem, yet she was still able to please God and positively change the world</li> <li>• <b>Woman at the Well.</b> She was married 5x and had a live-in boyfriend – yet God still wanted to reach her</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS**

- Praying still works wonders – even when spouse hunting
- **FINALLY...Marriages come in many forms, and cultural norms may vary, but it is God who still "joins together"**

**NEXT WEEK: Genesis 25-27.** What makes a spouse continually lie to their significant other?

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