

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 03 Mar.....Genesis 21-23.....A Substitute
- 2) **10 Mar.....Genesis 24.....Guidance Needed**
- 3) 17 Mar.....Genesis 25-27.....A Deceiver
- 4) 24 Mar.....Genesis 28-30.....A Stairway
- 5) 31 Mar.....John 20.....Believe!
- 6) 07 Apr.....Genesis 30-31.....Blessed
- 7) 14 Apr.....Genesis 32-33.....Wrestled
- 8) 21 Apr.....Genesis 34-36.....Renewed
- 9) 28 Apr.....Genesis 37.....Dreamer
- 10) 05 May.....Genesis 38-39.....Accused
- 11) 12 May.....Genesis 40-41.....Revealed
- 12) 19 May.....Genesis 42-46.....Reconcile
- 13) 26 May.....Genesis 47-50.....Revenge?

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

Passage	Comments
24:21-61	<p>Excitement Ensues Over a Marriage Proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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- & daughters-in-law. • 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"> ◆ Watch out for gullibility. Many spouses get hood-winked into marriage. Are such marriages still valid? • 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"> ◆ Was this request for an immediate answer proper? ◆ What was wrong for Rebekah staying an extra 10 days to say goodbye to her family and friends? ◆ Recall that Jacob lingered at Nahor's invites, and he didn't leave his clutches till 2 wives and 10 kids later • vv55-61. Rebekah's quick and willful departure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Rebekah was apparently old enough and mature enough to decide for herself ◆ Is it appropriate for family and friends to question the maturity & wisdom of some couples getting married?
24:62-67	<p>Isaac Enters The Picture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v65. Rebekah covers herself WHY? • Isaac apparently beds Rebekah– and she becomes his wife...No ceremony, no honeymoon. Ancient marriages & customs are sometimes beyond our appreciation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Places of worship were not around yet ◆ Priests were basically the clan elder ◆ No indoor plumbing and minimal hygiene ◆ So many ancient customs would be strange to us
Other Atypical or Non-Traditional Marriages in the Bible	<p>Wedding Ceremonies Evolve Over Time & Culturally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adam & Eve. 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?') • Lamech. First mention of a polygamous marriage • Jacob & Leah & Rachel. Deceptive Wedding (Lesson Learned – Don't get drunk at your wedding). God eventually made it illegal to marry sistersLeviticus 18:18 • Esther. She was part of a harem, yet she was still able to please God and positively change the world • Woman at the Well. She was married 5x and had a live-in boyfriend – yet God still wanted to reach her

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?

