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 he was a servant of some distant, unseen, relative?

Passage

Abraham Has His Servant Find A Mate For Isaac
- vv5-6. Why wasn’t Isaac allowed to find a wife?
- Criteria for a mate:
  - 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

What is Right or Wrong with Modern Dating?
- 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?
  - Family reunions
  - Local church
  - Internet
- How aggressive should one be to find a mate?
  - Need to get married?
  - Can wait till Jesus comes
- What are the minimum requirements for marriage?
  - Maturity level can handle a crying infant at 2AM
  - Minimum amount of wealth should be: $10,000
- Able to Cook, Able to Work, Able to Clean

Finding a Suitable Mate can be Costly in Time & Money
- v10. Ten Camels! That’s a lot of stuff to carry
  - 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”
- 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
  - 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)

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?

RUBES®

By Leigh Rubin