

- Church has failed in strengthening marriage
- Parents have failed to direct their children, 'as long as they are happy...' - dangerous

### Genesis 24

- Abraham finding a spouse for his son Isaac
- It is about learning to trust God in *every* aspect of your life!

## 1 Must have same faith and same values

Vv1-4

- Abraham makes it clear
- Not among Canaanites but among own people
- Must have same faith and same values - Top priority!
- Your potential spouse should love the lord the same way you do, and worship Him same.
- Your spouse will influence how you live and direction of the life.
- Deut Ch7 God's tells Israelites, do not have anything to do with pagans.
- God made it clear to Israel, if you obey God do not find a mate from another faith as they will turn you away towards their faith
- Solomon disobeyed God, held fast to other women and turned his faith, as God predicated
- 2 cor 6:13 do not be yoked; contrasts between believers and non-believers; light and darkness
- Often people make this mistake; parents also compromise
- Believers, should not even consider dating a non-Christian

## 2 Have a similar Vision/Mission

V5

- Abraham is on a mission
- God's promise of descendants
- God is going to bless the nations through his seed Isaac etc to Jesus
- Children are part of the mission; not just any wife but one chosen by God for your mission in life. That has a similar Vision/Mission
- Just as Isaac is a part of the mission, his spouse needs to be too
- Some say; I find this person attractive so I will try and see how things work out
- Not right way; what we need to do is set out eyes on God, run hard after God, serve him and while we are running see others around us that are running the same way after God and choose then.
- Instead what so many do, is chase someone who is running away from God and then run after them.
- We ignore God's purpose and the vision for life, because we may be attracted to someone who has no interest in God
- Know ahead of time the type of person you should look for, not try until you find, but know ahead of time and look out for that person
- In order to know ahead of time you should ask yourself **who am I, what makes me tick**, what has God called me to and for what purpose.
- When you discover what God has called you to, you can then search for someone with the same direction/vision and together you will be able to serve God together
- Instead some not knowing what they like, follow someone because you are attracted and are swayed to them
- We need to discover who we are, what direction we have and then God will bring the right person

## 3 What do we do then....we pray

V10

- What did Abraham's servant do?
- Before he embarked on his mission he prayed, because prayer focuses us on God and his purpose
- It makes us think about who we are and the sin in our lives and focuses on God and what he wants

V12

- What does he pray? Some observations...
  - In his prayer the servant is not asking God for a miraculous sign
  - Let her do something that is part of ordinary life
  - What he is asking is part of the ordinary life
  - He is travelling with 10 camels

- Jar that she has holds approx 11 Litres
- A Camel drinks 95 Litres
- Total for 10 Camels would be is 950 Litres
- 80-100 trips; take 1.5-2.5 hours
- She is serving a man she never met
- Narrator tells us who she is but servant does not know
- He is watching her and wondering if she is the person
- Does he/she have a servant heart? This is what we need to look for
- Marriage is all about serving; it is about denying your right/wants/desires
- Eph 5:21 submit to one another
- Man love your wife like JC loved the church - sacrificial
- Women submit like the church submits to Christ – sacrificial
- The servant then gave out some gifts; He then demands more and asks if he can stay at her house

#### 4 We need to get God's confirmation

Vv39-41

- Servant tells Rebekah's family the conversation he had with Abraham
- He doesn't say, if she says not the one then find someone else,
- We should not settle for second best. God has selected someone for you and so just because you prayed a certain way and doesn't get answered that now we are free; we then go outside God's will
- We may choose someone for the wrong reasons
  1. Out of fear of loneliness
  2. Getting too old
  3. Wanting to leave home
  4. Makes me feel wanted; loved or special
  5. He/She makes me happy

V50

- Rebekah's family realised that this is God's will
- It is very important that you receive your parents blessing
- Today many youth do things in secret; friends, partners, dating until it is too late etc
- Your parents love you and want the best for you and they can discern what is best for you; they are experienced and can give you advise

#### 5 We need to get confirmation from other people

- We read that Rebekah's confirmation was made by
  1. The narrator himself
  2. The Servant
  3. Laben (brother) and Rebekah's Father
  4. Rebekah's; even when she has not seen Isaac yet; submits to God's will
- She had learned to submit to authority (her parents) at a young age
- If young people have not learnt to submit to authority; to parents at a young age they will not submit to their spouses nor to God (remember Eph 5)

#### 6 We need to trust in God

V61

- Family says wait and stay but Rebekah says no I must go now, she has full trust.
- They finally met, she covers herself (note that it says she was beautiful)
- On what basis did they receive each other even when they had not met each other, trust in God's plan
- **Principle** – Isaac received Rebekah on the basis of God's flawless character, not on the basis of her performance. **It was God's provision not his decision.**
- It was God who brought Rebekah into his life; it was God who bought Isaac into Her life
- Just like Adam and Eve, did Adam say to Eve let us date and then we will see
- Rebekah took Sarah's place in the plan of God
- She had the same faith and values and she was going in the same direction
- We learn that it is by God's faithfulness and God's providence that we find the right spouse
- Providence = Latin 'Pro'-before; 'video' – to see
- Do you trust God
- What we learn is not to set out our criteria for God to fulfil for us; Instead we must be faithful in our everyday lives and God will fulfil his purpose

How will you apply these principles?

Let's focus and **accept God's will** and not to take things into our own hands