

=EVENTS FROM GENESIS=

Lesson 13

Isaac Chooses a Bride

AIM: to teach my pupils the story and beautiful truths of Isaac's marriage to Rebekah.

POINT OF CONTACT: Ask the pupils how many are in love, how many have ever been in love, how many ever fell in love at first sight, or how many married someone they met on a blind date. Talk briefly about any other interesting thing about love appropriate to the age group you teach.

INTRODUCTION: There is no love story in all the Bible any more beautiful or divine than the one of Isaac's love for Rebekah and her love for him. There is no story in the Bible that pictures any more the beautiful Gospel story than this one. Let us notice the beautiful picture of salvation we find in this story.

- I. ABRAHAM DID NOT CHOOSE A BRIDE FOR ISAAC UNTIL ISAAC HAD RISEN FROM THE PLACE OF DEATH. In last week's lesson we discussed the offering of Isaac. Though Isaac was old enough to marry when he was offered, yet for some reason he had not chosen a bride. Of course, the reason for this is that God is typifying in Isaac a beautiful picture of Jesus Christ. Hence, Isaac had to go to the place of death and rise from the place of death before he could marry. This pictures the fact that it was only after the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus that the bride for Jesus could be called out.
- II. AS SOON AS ISAAC WAS RAISED FROM THE PLACE OF DEATH, ABRAHAM SENT HIS SERVANT TO CHOOSE A BRIDE FOR HIS SON. In Genesis 24:1, 2 this servant represents the Holy Spirit. Upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the age of the Holy Spirit indwelling Christians began, and the Holy Spirit began His duty of seeking a bride for the Son. Just as Abraham, upon the resurrection of his son, sent a servant to choose a bride for his son, even so God the Father after the resurrection of His Son sent a servant, the Holy Spirit, into the world to choose a bride for His Son, Jesus Christ.
- III. THE BIG, CONSUMING PURPOSE OF THIS SERVANT WAS TO FIND A BRIDE. See Genesis 24:4. Jesus is our Bridegroom; we are His bride. The big, consuming purpose of the coming of the Holy Spirit is to choose a bride for Jesus Christ. All of His other duties are subservient to the big duty of calling out a bride. Soul winning is the big thing the Holy Spirit does in this age. All the other things the Holy Spirit does for the Christian are only to help the Christian grow in grace so he can become fruitful and help call out the bride for the Lord Jesus.
- IV. THE SERVANT HAD ALL THE POWER OF HIS MASTER. Notice in Genesis 24:10, "...for all the goods of his master were in his hand..." This is true concerning the Holy Spirit. Just as this servant had all the goods of Abraham, the Holy Spirit is the One Who gives power to Christians for the choosing of a bride. A person who does not have the power of the Holy Spirit cannot be fruitful in God's service.
- V. THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST MIRACULOUS STORIES IN THE BIBLE. See Genesis 24:14-19. The choosing of the bride was a miraculous thing. God made it this way to remind us that salvation is also a miraculous thing. The greatest miracle in the world is when a person is brought from darkness to light, is transformed completely by the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as accomplished through regeneration by the Holy Spirit. (Teacher, take some time to tell this beautiful story. Tell how Rebekah was willing to feed the camels also. This is certainly a miracle, for many reasons. One reason is that it was a long ways to draw water. Another reason it was a miracle is that in that region the ladies, to this day, carry the water on their heads. It was not an easy task to give water to all the camels. Another reason is, a camel can drink more water than any other animal. A camel seems to have an insatiable thirst. This was a tremendous thing that Rebekah was offering to do, and it was simply never done by a woman. This makes it a miracle, picturing salvation as a miracle.)
- VI. NOTICE THE GIFTS GIVEN BY THE SERVANT TO THE YOUNG LADY, REBEKAH. Notice in Genesis 24:22 that bracelets for her hands and an earring were the gifts she was given. This is very interesting. The earring represents the fact that we hear the Gospel and are saved thereby. Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." People hear the Gospel

to receive it. Then the bracelets for the hands represent the fact that a person receives salvation by faith. The hand represents the taking of an object. A person must take salvation by faith in Jesus Christ. God offers man a gift, he takes it, and he is saved. Hence, the earring for the ear and bracelets for the hands were the gifts given to her.

- VII. THE SERVANT WANTED TO LODGE IN THE HOUSE OF THE YOUNG LADY. Notice in Genesis 24:23 that he wanted to go to her house and talk with her family about her becoming a bride for Isaac. The words used here remind us of the Holy Spirit, God's servant. He too comes to live with us when we are saved. When a person receives Christ by faith after having heard the Gospel, the Holy Spirit comes to live with him. (Teachers, dwell on this a long time. Remind the pupils the Holy Spirit lives with them—at school He's there, at work He's there, at home He's there, at play He's there—so that they will be conscious always of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Nothing could be more important to stress in the life, especially of a child, than this truth. God is always with us in the person of the Holy Spirit.)
- VIII. THE SERVANT SPEAKS NOT OF HIMSELF, BUT OF HIS MASTER. Notice Genesis 24:35. This is very interesting. The servant brags only of the master, speaks only of his master, and never talks about himself. This is true of the Holy Spirit. People who receive the Holy Spirit in faith and are filled with the Holy Spirit do not necessarily speak about Him. It is He Who leads every one of us to magnify the Lord Jesus Christ. The test of Spirit-fullness is bringing folks to Jesus, not always talking about the Holy Spirit. May we speak of Jesus to our loved ones and friends. Let us be witnessing of Him and telling others how wonderful He is.
- IX. THE SERVANT URGED THE YOUNG LADY TO COME IMMEDIATELY. Notice in Genesis 24:55, 56 that the brother and mother suggested she stay for a few days. This is often the case in salvation. People want to wait. "Not now. I'll do it later," they say. "I'll become a Christian later on," they say. "When I get older, I'll be saved," people answer. This is pictured by her mother and brother not wanting her to go now and follow the servant. The Holy Spirit calls us now; now is the time to do His will. Now is the time to be saved. There is not time to delay. Life is too short!
- X. THE YOUNG LADY HAD TO MAKE THE DECISION. Notice the words, "...and inquire at her mouth," in Genesis 24:57. The brother could not make the decision for her. The mother could not make it for her. Rebekah only could make the decision. This is so true concerning salvation. Your parents cannot do it for you by having you dedicated as a baby or confirmed as a child. The priest or preacher cannot make it for you by "absolving" your sins. Each person must make his own decision to receive Christ by faith and become a follower of Jesus Christ.
- XI. THE YOUNG LADY SAID, "I WILL GO." See Genesis 24:58. Here we have salvation. The minute Rebekah said sincerely, "I will go," she had made her decision. When a person says, "I will," to Jesus Christ, immediately his faith is counted for righteousness, and he has become a child of God!
- XII. SHE FOLLOWED THE SERVANT UNTIL SHE CAME TO THE GROOM. In Genesis 24:61 notice the words, "...and followed the man: and the servant took Rebekah..." It was a season before Rebekah saw Isaac. There were days of travel. The only hope she had for success and happiness on the trip was to follow the servant. The servant represents the Holy Spirit. He wants to lead us. Until we see Jesus, our Bridegroom, we are to follow the Holy Spirit. We can be successful in the Christian life only when we do follow Him!
- XIII. ON THE TRIP THERE WERE MANY MOUNTAINS AND MANY VALLEYS. No doubt there were days of sunshine and days of rain, days of calm and days of storms, but Rebekah kept following the servant. Every Christian will face happy days and sad days, days of victory and days of defeat, days of joy and days of loneliness; but in every case, in every event, if we keep following the Holy Spirit, He will be our sufficiency.

- XIV. THE BRIDE AND GROOM FINALLY CAME TOGETHER. Genesis 24:63, 64 picture the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and our rapture. Isaac came out to meet Rebekah. Rebekah lifted up her eyes and ran to meet him. Jesus will come to meet us someday. We shall rise to meet Him, and then we shall be together forever.
- XV. ISAAC BROUGHT HER TO HIS OWN HOME, AND THERE THEY LIVED HAPPILY. Genesis 24:67 pictures Jesus preparing for us a home. After He comes again, He shall take us to that home, and we, His bride, shall live with Him, and He will love us forever.
- XVI. THEN ABRAHAM TAKES A WIFE. In Genesis 25:1 is a very interesting thing. Sarah had died before Isaac was married. Now that Isaac and Rebekah are together, Abraham chooses a wife, whose name was Keturah. Sarah represents the Jewish people, and Abraham represents God the Father. The Jews had rejected Jesus Christ and were, as it were, turned aside, or even in a sense, they had died before Jesus turned to the Gentiles and the Holy Spirit began to choose a bride. Then as soon as the bride was brought to Isaac, Abraham married again. As soon as the Gentile bride is completed and raptured, then God the Father will turn to the Jews and receive them back as His wife. What a beautiful picture! Abraham represents God, the Father; his wife represents the Jews; Isaac represents Jesus Christ, the Son; Rebekah represents the bride of Christ.
- XVII. “AND ABRAHAM GAVE ALL THAT HE HAD UNTO ISAAC.” (Genesis 25:5) When Jesus receives us, then will the Son receive the full inheritance from the Father. Then shall He be an heir of God, and we shall be heirs of God and joint-heirs with Him.

CONCLUSION: What a beautiful picture we find here! In this story, may we find strength for our life, hope for the future, and salvation for the present!