Lesson #41 *The Bride: The Extra Mile* Nov. 4, 2026

Gen. 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.
Before God created Eve, He said: "It is not good that man should be alone;
I will make him a helper fit for him" [Gen. 2:18].

- The first Adam's bride was hidden in him.
- Adam was put to sleep, his side opened, and God took one of his ribs and formed Eve.
- Eve was taken out of Adam's body and then presented back to Adam for a "helper" to rule/reign and have dominion.

A Bride For The Son Of Promise: The Heir

Abraham knows how important this decision will be. After all, the woman who marries Isaac will carry on the promised blessings that God gave him to build a nation that will bless the world.

- She will be the mother of God's chosen people.

Abraham wisely recruits his household manager, a type of Holy Spirit, to travel back to his homeland [type of world], to his people to seek out an appropriate choice for Isaac's wife.

The Holy Spirit in Genesis 24 gives great detail regarding the procuring of a bride for Isaac, the son of promise.

1. The bride must not be a Canaanite. Christ's bride cannot be an unbeliever.
2. The bride must be of Abraham's family. Christ's bride must be in the family of God.
3. Isaac's bride must be of the same stock as himself and among his kindred. Christ's bride must be of His nature. > Progressive Sanctification

The unnamed servant, type of the Holy Spirit, was sent to procure the bride for Isaac.
The Holy Spirit is actively seeking and preparing the bride for Jesus Christ.

Gen. 24:5 And the servant said unto him,
Peradventure the woman will not be willing to follow me unto this land.
Gen. 24:8 "And if the woman will not be willing to follow thee,
then thou shalt be clear of this my oath:
The necessity of the woman's willingness is emphasized again.
Rebekah, who lived in Mesopotamia, the city of Nahor, which is Chaldean [Babylonian], must be willing to come out of this land, follow the unnamed servant and make the long journey to the land of Isaac to become the bride of Isaac, type of Jesus Christ.

We also must choose to follow the Holy Spirit on a long journey of sanctification.
Those who constitute the Bride of Christ will be in that company, not by compulsion or chance,
But By Choice.

If you are unwillingly to respond, God does not hold the Holy Spirit responsible. [24:8]
Gen. 24:8 And if the woman will not be willing to follow thee,
then thou shalt be clear from this my oath:
Gen.24:10 And the servant took ten camels of the camels of his master, and departed,
for all the goods of his master were in his hand:
and he arose, and went to Mesopotamia, unto the city of Nahor.

1. All the goods of his master were in his hand.

All of God's vast resources are at the disposal of the Holy Spirit.
Out of that limitless supply He equips each man for the work to be done.

2. Took a demonstration of the master's wealth.

To bear the presents for the bride, to enhance the dignity of his mission, and
to serve as a means of transport for the bride and her companions on the return journey.

Gen. 24:11 And he made his camels to kneel down without the city by a well of water
at the time of the evening, even the time that women go out to draw water.

The servant is a godly man, knowing his mission will only be successful if God leads and blesses it. His prayer is very specific. He wants God to clearly show him Isaac's future bride. Surely inspired by God, he presents the "camel test." When he arrives in the city, he will ask the young women he meets for a drink from the well. If it is the one God has chosen, she will not only be happy to serve him but also volunteer to water his camels.

Servant's Prayer: Gen. 24:12-14 And he said, O Lord God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and show kindness unto my master Abraham." Behold, I stand here by the well of water, and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water.
And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and She Shall Say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also:
let the same be She That THOU Hast Appointed For THY Servant Isaac;
and thereby shall I know that thou hast showed kindness unto my master.
Key: God's promise to bless Abraham was intricately tied up with Isaac and his future bride.

- Thou hast appointed = #3198 = proved; determined

Biblehub.org She that thou hast appointed; *evidently pointed out;* or, *exactly searched out,*
as a person meet for him.

- Showed kindness = #2617 = chesed; lovingkindness

The well served as a means of testing the character of the woman destined to be Isaac's wife. It was there he discovered kindness and conscientiousness in Rebekah.

Rebekah: The Answer To His Prayer Genesis 24:15-20
24:15 And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out,
who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother,
with her pitcher upon her shoulder."

Gen. 24:16 And the damsel was very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her:

- The purity of Rebekah: a virgin who stayed pure for her future spouse.

and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up.
Key: The servant found Rebekah at the water well. A divine appointment

Gen. 24:17 And the servant ran to meet her, and said,
Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher."
From the moment he requested to take a sip from her jug, her generosity and greatness radiated in the most discreet and unassuming manner.

- She appears to be a good prospect for the bride of the son.

Eliezer runs to Rebekah. With eagerness he initiates their interaction.
Likewise, the Holy Spirit eagerly runs to you. But you must respond.
If you are unwillingly to respond, God does not hold the Holy Spirit responsible. [24:8]

Eliezer makes the 1st move by asking for water that he can drink. Will the woman do ONLY what is asked "the letter of the law" or will she follow the leading of the Holy Spirit?
Gen. 24:18-19 And she said, Drink, my lord; and she hasted, and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink. And when she had done giving him drink, she said,
I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking. [First worship, then service]

Rebekah & The Camel Test: This test involves two aspects: Part 1 is a spoken request: "I am thirsty." Part 2 is an unspoken request, a need that is not verbalized: my camels are thirsty too! Rebekah not only meets the spoken need, but she also satisfies the unspoken need. She sees beyond the obvious; she discerns something more.

- This is the kind of person that the Holy Spirit gets excited about.

She knew exactly what she was getting into. Her words revealed she had a kind and humble heart – just the kind of woman Abraham would want for his son, the heir of promise.
Consider: She is portrayed as Giving the water rather than receiving it.
What is being portrayed? Is the call of a believer to service?
Note: She had already filled the pitcher which involved effort.
It is folly to believe that we will have anything to offer the Father in worship if we haven't been "filling the pitcher" during the week, filling our minds with the Word of God.
Gen. 24:20 And she hasted, and emptied her pitcher into the trough, and ran again unto the well to draw water and drew for all his camels."

It's not coincidental that scripture mentions how many camels the servant decided to take on this journey. God is making a point. The "camel test" was not for the faint of heart!
Because this was a "test," we can conclude that it was not a given expectation that a woman would volunteer to water a stranger's caravan of camels.
It would be an act of extraordinary kindness that singled her out from her peers.

Consider: If the well had been easily accessible, they could simply lead the camels to the water, but instead, a trough was used. It likely took her hours to perform all this work.
Rebekah & The Camel Test: The magnitude of her task: A thirsty camel can drink 30 - 40 gallons of water at one time. 30 gallons x 10 camels = 300 gallons. Each gallon = ~8 lbs.
Verse 16: Rebekah 'descended' to get the water. The well lay at the bottom of a set of steps. Rebekah would walk down some steps, bend over to fill her jar, lift the heavy jar onto her shoulder, walk back up the stairs, and dump the water in the feeding trough.
A strong woman could carry about 5 gallons of water per trip. This would require 60 trips.

Rebekah volunteered for a momentous task for a complete stranger. The watering of the camels, a demeaning task, was a gesture that went far beyond social expectations. [*Nelson's* Study Bible]
All of this speaks of a willing, wholehearted service that didn't stop to count the cost.

- Undiscriminating service
- It was not a service that begins with much zeal, and then quickly fizzles.

The words *hasted* and *ran* continue to emphasize not only the thought of urgency, but also of the zeal with which she rendered her service.
She didn't stop until all of them had done drinking.

Eccl. 9:10 Whatsoever thy hand finds to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.
Gal. 6:9-10 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.
10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith..
Col. 3:23-24 Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.
Solomon advised that a virtuous spouse is revealed through selfless service:
Prov. 31:20 She stretches out her hand to the poor; yea, she reaches forth her hands to the needy.
Is this expected as a character trait of the future bride of Christ?

Rom. 12:1 I beseech [urge] you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
James 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, AND to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Gen. 24:19 I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking.
And she hasted, and emptied her pitcher into the trough, and ran again unto the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels.

Note: Repeated filling and emptying to satisfy the thirsty. That which we are filled with is to be poured back out for the benefit of others. Rebekah shows us how to be a voluntary vessel which may be tiring work at times, but it is of mighty use to God.

Gen. 24:21 And the man wondering at her held his peace,
to know whether the Lord had made his journey prosperous or not.

Prosperous = succeed = accomplish what is intended

- 1st time in the OT: also in 40, 42 & 56: LORD is always the subject and cause of success.

At first glance, Eliezer's conduct seems surprising. After seeing that Rebecca passed his test, why did he stand by and just watch Rebecca laboriously and singlehandedly provide water for all his camels?

Eliezer considered this part of the test. What if she gave up after the 6th camel and said, forget it, this is too hard! We need perseverance and endurance.

There are those who make generous offers but do an inadequate job, quit, or don't follow through completely. There are others who may do their job, but though they make no demands, they expect some form of compensation or gratitude.

Eliezer continued watching carefully, to see her approach to carrying out a difficult task. These moments would be extremely telling as to whether her offer stemmed from a genuine desire to help someone, or if there was some other underlying motive to her kind behavior. It was only after her job was done, during which she had no expectations from him, that he was able to be absolutely convinced that she had passed the camel test.

Yet while she fulfilled her duty and beyond, God was now about to fulfill her destiny.

Those Camels Had Blessings Packed Inside! She didn't know that the camel packs had jewelry, riches and would lead her to her future husband.

1. All the goods of his master were in his hand.

All of God's vast resources are at the disposal of the Holy Spirit.
Out of that limitless supply He equips each man for the work to be done.

Her humility, hospitality, & generosity opened the door of God's blessing in her life.
How could Rebekah have known that her extra-mile attitude would give her a place in the lineage of Jesus? She would not only become the bride of Isaac and mother of Jacob.
She would also become the grandmother of the leaders of the 12 tribes of Israel.
Talk about influence! Rebekah's story in the Bible all began with an act of service.
Rebekah passed the "camel test." Her generosity, humility and kindness were desired traits for the future bride of the father's son of promise, the heir.

How will I respond to "the camel test?"
There are really difficult times, when God allows stretching.
How many blessings do we miss out on because we're too busy to stop and serve others?

How willing are we to go the extra mile, to do the difficult and time-consuming simply to serve others with no expectation of reward or benefit to ourselves other than a tired and sweaty body?

I'm not sure if I would have passed "the camel test." Looking back, I'm sure I've missed some opportunities because I was too busy focusing on "me." This is a good reminder to set aside our own agendas and exercise kindness, servanthood, and humility when God presents an opportunity. He just might have something amazing in store for us.

Rebekah's decision changed the course of her life. A different choice and she might have lived out her days in a pagan culture, missing the chance to be part of the story God was unfolding. May God give us the grace to pass our 10 Camel Challenges knowing it comes with blessings.

Gen. 24:22 And it came to pass, as the camels had done drinking, that the man took a golden earring of half a shekel weight, and two bracelets for her hands of ten shekels weight of gold;

- 10 shekels = 4.02 oz. Gold = ~$4,000.00 per ounce
- The servant gives her the gifts even before asking if she is from Abraham's family.
- Her actions truly do speak louder than her words.

Rebekah's experience demonstrates the truth: Labored until the camels were done drinking.

Luke 16:10-11 Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. **11** If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?

Biblehub.org Stewardship over temporal resources is training for participation in the eternal treasures of the kingdom.

Many a believer has denied himself spiritual promotion by disdaining as beneath his dignity, the work assigned him by the Lord. He who refuses to "draw water for the camels," need not look for what he deems "more honorable" service." It will not be given to him.

What marks the believer to whom God entrusts increasingly important service is an obedient heart, and hands encircled with the golden bracelets, service rendered according to God's Word and as directed and led by the Holy Spirit.

Eliezer revealed the wealth of his Master Isaac by the precious gifts he gave Rebekah.

The Holy Spirit by His Gifts gives us a foretaste of what lies ahead for the Bride of Christ.

Key Point: Her faithfulness in doing the menial work of drawing water for the camels led to great promotion: she would become Isaac's bride, and mistress over all his house – a very great honor, for Isaac was a very wealthy, powerful man.

This is a figure of The Glory awaiting those who comprise the bride of the Jesus Christ.

Camels were not common. Bringing ten of these rare, useful animals would communicate great riches to the family of any perspective wives. These creatures are very strong and fit for carrying great burdens, even a thousand-pound weight.

10: used 242x in the Bible. It is viewed as a complete number. Ten can also denote testing.

- 10 Camels, beast of burden, are used for testing.

Consider: Jesus, the Bridegroom, had to endure trials and suffering. He overcame.
Luke 4:1-2a And Jesus being full of the Holy Spirit returned from Jordan, and
was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, [2] Being forty days tempted of the devil.
Luke 4:13-14a And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him
for a season. [14] And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee:

1. The prospective bride must endure and overcome trials and testing.

James 1:2-4 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into various temptations;

- The command calls for a disciplined outlook that interprets hardship through the lens of divine purpose.

[3] Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh or produces endurance.
Produces:#2716 katergazomai: consistently stresses an active process that brings something to its intended result. Reframe trials as tools God uses to "produce" maturity.
Endurance: #5281 hypomonē: conveys steadfast endurance that clings to God in the face of pressure. More than passive waiting, it is active, faith-filled perseverance that refuses to abandon obedience or hope. Its essence is a Spirit-empowered tenacity that
remains under trial until God's purpose is fulfilled.
[4]And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete,
lacking in nothing.
Perfect: #5046 teleios: a believer brought to God's intended maturity—complete devotion.

Rom. 5:3-4 … And not only *this,* but [with joy] let us exult in our sufferings *and* rejoice in our hardships, knowing that hardship [distress, pressure, trouble] produces patient endurance;
and endurance, proven character [spiritual maturity];
and proven character, hope *and* confident assurance [of eternal salvation].
Exult or Boast: Strong's 2744 kauchaomai teaches that every mouth will either boast in self and be silenced at judgment or boast in the Lord and be eternally satisfied.
Tribulation: "Not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings",
because trials advance God's purposes.
Hope: Strong's 1680 portrays hope as a God-given certainty anchored in Jesus Christ,
nurtured by Scripture, tested through suffering,
Suffering refines hope. Tribulation → perseverance → proven character → hope

I Pet. 1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be,
you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, [8] whom having not seen you love.
Though now you do not see *Him,* yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, [9] receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.

Romans 8:16-18 The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:
17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. **18** For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Rev. 3:21 To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with me in my throne,
even as I also overcame and am set down with my Father in his throne.

2. The Bride shows hesed love or kindness. She goes beyond the letter of the law.

Hesed ~ 250 times in the Old Testament, expresses an essential part of God's character.
Lovingkindness is derived from hacad = "to bend or bow oneself," "to incline oneself"
"to be gracious or merciful."
Many biblical words such as *mercy*, *compassion*, *love*, *grace*, and *faithfulness* relate to the Hebrew word *hesed* (חֶסֶד), but none of these completely summarize the concept.
Hesed is not merely an emotion or feeling but involves action on behalf of someone who is in need. *Hesed* describes a sense of love and loyalty that inspires merciful and compassionate behavior toward another person.

When examining the details of what transpired during this "camel test," Rebecca's natural devotion, modesty, sensitivity, responsibility and work ethic are readily apparent.

- The boundless *chesed* came forth.
- Rebecca immediately gave him a drink, then offered and drew water for all his camels.
- She saw an opportunity to do something kind and swiftly went to work.

She didn't question or consider whether she was really needed; instead, she energetically continued filling multiple troughs with water, until the job of satisfying a whole herd of thirsty camels was completed . . . while Eliezer and his men watched her work unassisted.

- She had one motivation: to give to someone else with kindness.
- That intense desire to reach out to others and to jump at the prospect of being of service matched the profile of Abraham's family and for his son, the heir.

Rebecca teaches us:

- To challenge ourselves with real, selfless commitment
- To be initiators, to look for times and places where we can be of service
- To be proactive and useful, without calculating whether there are others around who could or should do the same.

John 13:12-15 When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you?
13 You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. **14** If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.
15 For I have given you an example that you also should do just as I have done to you.

Matt. 5:41 And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.

- Acts of *hesed* are always performed freely, under no obligation or fear of reprisal.

3. The Bride displays the Fruit of the Spirit.

Character traits in Rebekah: kindness, hospitality with eagerness, loyalty, faith, courage, Humility, love, patience

All that he had prayed for had been granted: [13]Behold, I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water: **[14]** And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master.

Her work in drawing the water was not in itself sufficient qualification to be Isaac's bride. Good works ought to accompany the new life, but they are not the source of that life.
What more was required to convince him that Rebekah was indeed the woman who would become Isaac's bride? All that God could do had been done. What is lacking?
Rebekah must be of Abraham's kindred and she must be willing to leave country and kindred and follow the servant to Isaac's home. It is a long, difficult journey.
There is no compulsion. The individual must exercise his will and make a choice.
The success of the servant's journey will depend on whether Rebekah will choose to follow him.

God the Father desires a bride for Jesus Christ, the Son of Promise and the Heir of all things. He has been promised a Kingdom where He will rule and reign during the 1000-year Millennium. After Jesus Christ's death, resurrection and ascension to the Father, God the Holy Spirit was sent into the world to begin the building of the body of Christ. While the bride is being built, God the Son is at the right hand of the Father. While Christ has gone to prepare a home for us, we are being prepared for our bridegroom. [conformed to the image of Christ > sanctification] We await His return. One day His bride will meet Him face to face.

Phil. 3:14b-15 but one thing *I do,* forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, **[14]** I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore, let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.
So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision – you'll see it yet! Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it. [Message]