

ABRAHAM SOUGHT A BRIDE FOR ISAAC: GUIDING FAITH — SEEKING THE RIGHT PERSON TO MARRY GENESIS 24:49–67

Introduction

Marriage is of critical concern to God. God cares about who we marry. He cares about the love stories of our hearts, about the men and women we date and choose to love and spend our lives with. God wants our marriages to be filled with love, joy and peace — to enrich our lives and to fill our hearts to the fullest. But note, one way our marriages can be enriched and filled to the fullest: we must choose the right partner, the very person God would have us marry. We must marry in the will of God. We must seek the will of God about whom we marry.

If we marry the wrong persons, they will bring only trouble and heartache — sometimes terrible problems and severe pain — into our lives. The wrong persons will be combative and selfish, neglecting and ignoring us, putting us way down on their list of priorities. The wrong persons will fill us with deep loneliness, rejection, anger, hostility and eventually failure.

As just stated, if we marry the wrong persons, they will bring only trouble and heartache — sometimes terrible problems and severe pain — into our lives. They will flood our lives with disturbance after disturbance. The right persons, however, will bring love, joy and peace — a secure peace — to our lives. They will be warm, tender, precious and kind! They will flood our hearts with a deep sense of fulfilment and satisfaction, and they will make us far stronger and more productive persons throughout life. They will walk with us as we walk before the LORD and grow more and more in Him.

This passage shows us the steps to take in seeking the right persons and God's will in marriage. It is a passage that should be studied by every person considering marriage. Note how the guiding hand of God led Isaac to the right bride. *Abraham Sought a Bride for Isaac: Guiding Faith — Seeking the Right Person to Marry*, Genesis 24:1-67. Here we discuss the last three steps only.

- I. Step 1: following God's will for marriage (vv. 1-9).
 - II. Step 2: arising and going forth to seek a wife (vv. 10-11).
 - III. Step 3: praying and asking for God's guidance in seeking a wife (vv. 12-14).
 - IV. Step 4: acting upon and following through with one's prayer (vv. 15-25).
 - V. Step 5: thanking God for His kindness, faithfulness and leadership step by step (vv. 26-27).
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- VI. Step 6: responding and accepting the graciousness of the family (vv. 28-32).
- VII. Step 7: sharing one's heart and purpose about marriage (vv. 33-48).
- VIII. Step 8: asking for a clear decision in marriage (vv. 49-51).
- IX. Step 9: confirming and sealing the decision for marriage (vv. 52-61).
- X. Step 10: consummating the marriage (vv. 62-67).

I. *Genesis 24:49–51 A Clear Decision for Marriage*

Asking for a clear decision for marriage. In a kind but very straightforward manner the man asked for Rebekah to be the wife of Isaac. The Lord's leadership was clearly acknowledged and the family granted the servant's wish. They gave Rebekah to be married to Isaac.

Thought 1. The believer should always ask and seek for a clear decision from the loved one. The decision to marry must be firm and secure, not shaky and uncertain, not questionable and hesitant. The believer's marriage must not be built upon a wavering decision. If a person doubts the marriage, he builds his marriage upon sinking sand that can soon pull the marriage down and smother it.

II. *Genesis 24:52–61 Confirming and Sealing the Decision for Marriage*

The next step is confirming and sealing the decision for marriage. Note how the servant confirmed and sealed the family's decision to let Rebekah marry Isaac.

- => He immediately worshipped God (v. 52).
- => He immediately gave gifts to both Rebekah and her family (v. 53).
- => He rejoiced and fellowshiped with all present (v. 54).
- => He comforted the family through their sense of loss (vv. 55-60). After a night's sleep, the servant wanted to leave with Rebekah the very next morning, but the family had not expected Rebekah's departure to be so soon. Therefore, they asked the servant to stay for another ten days. However, he continued to express the urgency to get underway immediately.
- => The family reconfirmed the decision with Rebekah (v. 57).
- => They asked Rebekah if she was wanting to leave immediately or wait for a few days. Excitedly, she expressed the desire to leave immediately.
- => The family sent Rebekah away, along with her nurse (v. 59).
- => The family pronounced a blessing upon Rebekah (v. 60). Note that this was a prophecy that she was to be in the promised line of Abraham.
- => The servant with Rebekah and their company left to go to Isaac (v. 61).

Thought 1. The believer needs to confirm and seal the decision to be married...

- by worshipping God
- by sharing gifts
- by rejoicing and fellowshiping with the families and friends of both parties
- by comforting the two families in their sense of loss

III. *Genesis 24:62–67 Consummation of Marriage*

The last step is consummating the marriage. This is a moving and dramatic scene, the first meeting between Isaac and Rebekah. Isaac was living in the Negev, the southern part of the promised land. Note what happened.

=> Isaac went out one evening into a field to meditate. While there, he saw the camel caravan coming and he began to walk toward them (v. 63).

=> Rebekah saw Isaac off in the distance walking toward them so she got down off her camel (v. 64).

=> She asked the servant who the man was, and the servant replied that it was Isaac (v. 65).

=> Rebekah acted with the utmost respect and courtesy. This is seen by her covering her face with a veil as they met for the very first time (v. 65).

=> The servant, at some point, shared his search for Rebekah (v. 66).

=> Isaac loved and married Rebekah. Note that Rebekah brought great comfort to Isaac, for he had deeply felt the loss of his mother since her death.

Thought 1. The day comes when the believer is to consummate and bind the marriage. We should always be as Isaac was when that day comes, in a spirit of meditation and prayer..

Eph 5:22 *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.*

Eph 5:25 *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.*

Eph 5:28 *In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

Gen 2:24 *For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. ■*