



Calvary of Albuquerque

Genesis 24 - Genesis 24

From the Series, Genesis

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

In most parts of the world, the methods of dating and marriage have changed dramatically over the past 4000 years. Arranged marriages, family involvement and dowries are foreign to our culture where online dating is becoming the norm. As we consider the way Isaac and Rebekah were brought together, we will discover timeless principles to apply to the modern dating game. We'll also uncover a deeper spiritual message as we examine the foundations of their relationship.

DETAILED NOTES

I. Introduction

- A. Dating's spiritual roots have been secularized
- B. Ancient Customs
 - 1. Dating was a family event
 - 2. Arranged marriages, parents chose the mates
 - 3. Commitment before love, will before romance
 - 4. Dowry
 - a. Paid by groom's family to bride's family
 - b. In case of death or divorce, provision for the bride
 - c. Payment for loss of a good laborer
- C. We are involved in the process of choosing a mate
- D. We should include God in the process
- E. Many parts of India still have arranged marriages
 - 1. Very low divorce rate
 - 2. Will over emotion
 - 3. Stable relationships
 - 4. Trust the Lord in it

II. An Oath Between Abraham and His Servant

- A. Put your hand under my thigh
 - 1. Thigh is the strongest muscle
 - 2. Like swearing on a Bible
 - 3. Child came from the loins or thigh
 - 4. Common practice
- B. Abraham didn't want Isaac to marry a Canaanite
- C. The Unnamed Servant
 - 1. Eliezer means God my Helper, Comforter (Genesis 15:2)
 - 2. Type of the Holy Spirit
 - a. Holy Spirit sent into the world
 - b. Draw a gentile bride for the Son
 - 3. Isaac not in the picture
 - 4. Would you entrust your marital future to someone else?
 - a. Depends on who it is
 - b. Key is to trust God in finding the right mate
 - 5. Two are better than one (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)
 - a. Strength, accountability, warmth, encouragement
 - b. Cord of 3 strands not quickly broken
 - c. Relationship wrapped with God

III. Separation - Separate from Unbelievers

- A. Abraham doesn't want Isaac to marry a pagan Canaanite
- B. Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers (2 Corinthians 6:11-16)
 - 1. Wise farmer yokes two animals of similar size, strength and temperament
 - 2. Need to plow in the same direction
 - 3. Don't be mismatched with unbelievers
 - 4. Marriage is the yoking of two people
- C. Survey of Christian teens revealed that 40% of Christian teens would date and unbeliever, and 25% would consider it
- D. Marry only in the Lord (1 Corinthians 7:39)
- E. Abraham was a man of faith
 - 1. God promised a son and spared the son
 - 2. God must want a wife for Isaac, promise of descendants



3. Unnamed servant on a mission
 - a. Doesn't speak of himself (John 16:13)
 - b. Arranges a marriage (Matthew 22:2)
 - c. Friend of the bridegroom

IV. Supplication

- A. Entrust the future to God
- B. Break the ice on the first date with prayer
 1. Place the relationship on spiritual ground
 2. If it doesn't work, you've lost nothing
- C. Servant's prayer
 1. Answered before he's done praying
 2. Let her be the one, let the person I meet be the one You've chosen
 - a. She's beautiful, but that's not what he prayed for
 - b. Prayed a spiritual prayer, which God honored
 3. Rebekah's beauty
 - a. Puritans believed physical beauty was of the devil
 - b. Scientists recognize love mapping in the brain, what brings attraction
 - c. After about 1000 miles and four months, didn't want to bring back an unattractive bride
 4. Servant prayed all the way through
 5. Servant's prayer is answered
 - a. I will draw for your camels also
 - i. 10 camels could drink 4 barrels of water each
 - ii. Revealed she was industrious and submissive
 6. Servant trusted the Lord
 - a. Being on the way, God led me
 - b. God's providence revealed in man's diligence and obedience
 - c. Steps ordered by the Lord (Psalm 37:23)
 - d. Philip to Gaza, had to take the first step (Acts 8:26)
 - e. Rebekah makes a choice

V. Success

- A. Eliezer planned for success
- B. Plan only for success in your relationship
 1. Don't allow for failure
 2. Don't even speak of divorce
 3. Know what you're getting into
- C. Rebekah departs with Abraham's servant
 1. Servant would have revealed to bride information about the groom
 2. She couldn't wait to see Isaac
 3. As the Holy Spirit reveals the Son to us, we can't wait to see Him

Figures Referenced: Mike Driggs, Pam Sears, James Dobson, Mark Twain

Cross References: Genesis 15:2, Psalm 37:23, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Matthew 22:2, John 16:13, Acts 8:26, 1 Corinthians 7:39, 2 Corinthians 6:11-16