

Genesis 25:1-23

Review:

Chapter 24 was above and beyond all things a love story of great beauty and power. The Father sends His trusted servant to take out of the Gentiles a bride for His beloved Son of promise. We saw the Faith of Abraham, the Faith of his trusted servant, the Faith of Rebekah and the Faith of Isaac. We see a remarkable figure in Rebekah as she not only willingly is going about her tasks, going the extra mile, but she also does it with such an attitude of joy, 'running' to complete the task. She is a wonder to all that would watch, she is both strong and beautiful a powerful combination. What a beautiful heart this woman possess, this humbles me, is this my attitude towards Christ my husband?

.....As for me, being on the way, the Lord led me

[Being in the Way]

He was on the way, he was moving and God was directing

Ps 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way.

1 Cor 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

24:33 Food was set before him to eat, but he said, "I will not eat until I have told about my errand." And he said, "Speak on."

Again in verses 55-56 an attempt is made to delay the departure and he will refuse. Single mindedness is the hallmark of the servant of God, we see it throughout the life of Paul and we wonder why he was such a powerful Christian.

God wants a singleness of heart from us.....

James 1:5-8 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Ps 86:11 Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name.

Complete and immediate obedience to the commands of God is the only response to have, no time for second thoughts.....

24:63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels were coming.

Here the son is waiting for his bride to come and to be received into his house. Isaac is not wasting the time, but rather waiting and meditating on the Lord, this reflects the nature of his personality.

24:64 Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel;

[Dismounted] Lit. 'Fell' off her camel..... Now their eyes meet and there is love at first sight!!! What a beautiful picture of the day when we will have been united with our love whom we have never seen, it will truly be love at first sight.

Now as we enter Chapter 25 we are half way through the book, it is an interesting Chapter in which the next Section of Genesis will begin in the middle of verse 19, where we will see Isaac and Jacob carry on the mantle that God had placed upon Abraham. We have recorded for us in this Chapter Abraham's new wife and the sons bore by her, however Abraham would leave all to Isaac the Promised One, he loves his other children, but to Isaac goes the blessing and he separates him from his brethren.

And we also have the death of Abraham recorded for us.....

This is the account of the passing of one of the most remarkable lives ever lived. It was a life spent in the realm of the supernatural, in the region of vision, and under the constraining sense of the reality and power of the spiritual. Abraham lived not for the flesh, not even for the mind, but for the Spirit. ---Morgan---

25:1-4

[Took a Wife] Even in his very old age Abraham is able to foster another 6 sons. He would live another 35 years after Isaac's marriage.

5 And Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac. 6 But Abraham gave gifts to the sons of the concubines which Abraham had; and while he was still living he sent them eastward, away from Isaac his son, to the country of the east.

[Gave All] Here Abraham makes a clear and strong statement that the Spiritual heritage given to him by God is now being passed on to the Promised Seed, his son Isaac is to receive all that is his, notice first spiritual then physical. [Gave Gifts] He loved his other sons demonstrated by his gifts to them, but the promise goes to Isaac, and he is making sure of that, and in doing so, he is fulfilling his spiritual responsibility to his God and his family. [Sent Away] And finally in full recognition that all might know the intents of his heart and will, he further demonstrates this with separation, much like the separation that Abraham achieved when leaving his homeland, he leaves his son secure in the fact that all is given to him, he is the sole link to the Messianic line.

This separation is exhibited in the life of Abraham by his separation from his country and his family. When we think of separation today, we do not mean to be literally separated from those family members who do not have a personal relationship with God, but to be separated mentally and morally from their viewpoints. ---Oswald Chambers---

25:7-8

[Full of Years] 175 years old Abraham died being 'full'. Everything about his life, the failures, successes, the hardness and the joy of it all added up to a full life. This is the life God wants to give to us each day, no matter how long we live, our lives should be 'full' of life.

The Hebrews regarded life as complete when it was full of days, riches and honor. Age was looked upon as a sign of favor. Whenever a nation becomes unspiritual, it reverses this order, the demand is not for old age but for youth. This reversal in the modern life of today is indicative of apostasy, not advance. ---Oswald Chambers--- **Heb 11:38-39**

Abraham didn't lead a perfect life, but he did lead a life of faith in continuing to pursue God, to reach in faith for the substance that he knew was there in the Spirit and rejected the natural world whose own reality was superseded by the spiritual reality of God.

The great difference between things material and things spiritual, in the material things the search precedes the finding; in spiritual things the finding precedes the search. When a man goes out to seek for gold you may infer that he is materially poor, but when a man goes out to seek for God you may conclude that he is spiritually rich. When a child stretches out its hand and cries for the moon it is seeking something which it will never find; but when a man stretches out his hand and cries for holiness he is seeking something which he has found already.

---Matheson---

25:9-10

Here his two boys bury him together demonstrating their love for their father and testifying of the good work their father has done in raising these two sons. These two boys are so opposite and the potential was great for jealousy and rivalry that was never realized.

11 And it came to pass, after the death of Abraham, that God blessed his son Isaac. And Isaac dwelt at Beer Lahai Roi.

[God Blessed] Now after the blessing and preparation given to him from his earthly father, his heavenly Father now blesses him by the well that we have already been introduced to earlier....

[Isaac dwelt by the well Lahai-Roi] This is the place Isaac would desire to live a peaceful existence, he's not up much for travel or adventure, it's his desire to live and settle down in this place.

This statement in itself is suggestive of the character of the man. He was quiet and meditative, content to abide by the wells, where his flocks might be well watered. He was evidently a man passive rather than active, whose faith was likely to produce quietness rather than initiation.

---Morgan---

Rebecca there had made his spirit feel at home near the spot; but best of all, the fact that he there enjoyed fellowship with the living God, had made him select that hallowed ground for his dwelling. May the Lord Jehovah be as a well to us, delightful, comforting, unfailing, and springing up unto eternal life. The bottle of the creature cracks and dries up, but the well of the Creator never fails; happy is he who dwells at the well, and so has abundant and constant supplies near at hand. ---Spurgeon---

25:12-20

Here we have the record of Ishmael's generations, we see that he had 12 sons of the flesh that will contrast the 12 sons of the Spirit to be born from Jacob. This clearly marked out for us in verse 19 which is the beginning of a new section in the book of Genesis as it will give the detailed account of the Covenant being passed along to Abraham's son and grandson.

It's interesting to me to note that the flesh always seems to get the jump, it is always characteristic of the flesh to have instant gratification, no waiting upon the Lord will do, I must have it and I must have it now. However, God is working much more patiently and persistently, His work is the long way around, He is not so much interested in results as He is in working the deep recess of our heart prompting and promoting change in the inner working of a man.

God ultimately will have results, He just isn't in any hurry because the end result is never in question, but the process is, how will we respond to the circumstances He places in front of us? Ishmael's sons would grow to be powerful in their own right, in settling towns and cities fulfilling the promise given to him in Chapter 17. So, Ishmael's dies at the age of 137, 58 years before Isaac would die.

21 Now Isaac pleaded with the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

Here much like his parents, Isaac and Rebekah must wait for a son. Twenty long years of waiting and it is understood that this prayer is the final plea which had followed so many before. It seems the Lord waits and longs for us to continue in prayer and communion with him concerning our most cherished and legitimate requests. Isaac knew he must have a son to pass along the eternal blessing through which the Messiah would one day come. So he is praying according to God's will, but why does God seem to delay the process even though it's His will for us and that it would accomplish His eternal purpose. Much of the answer rests in His Sovereignty and Love. I think He longs to be with us and these desires that He places in our hearts draw us to Himself in communion and fellowship as He shares in our distress. Think of how long God waited in human history for His Son to come on to the scene, and how Israel would be in Egypt for 400 years.

22 But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If all is well, why am I like this?" So she went to inquire of the Lord.

Here we go the battle begins.....Now Rebekah feels something out of order inside of her womb, intuitively she is aware that something different and profound is going on inside of her and as we will quickly see, she is proved right, it wasn't just about her craving pickles and Ice Cream ☺ As we will see this struggle is the struggle of the ages the classic and titanic struggle between the flesh against the Spirit.

23 And the Lord said to her: "Two nations are in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; One people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger."

[Two Nations Are in Your Womb] Struggling against one another. As we will see these two brothers are placed before us in strong contrast.

- Two nations
- Two different personalities
- Two different outlooks on life
- One Spiritual and desiring Godly things
- The other natural with no desire for God or the things of God
- One living for the eternal
- The other living only for the temporal

This Chapter is the key to understanding the most misunderstood person in all of the Bible.... Jacob. This commentary from God, and we must listen carefully to it, that in spite of what I may initially think, or what others may say about Jacob and his motives, I will have to submit to God's commentary about this man Jacob rather than what man may think or say.

Our motives and actions can be interpreted two ways, and God here gives us the true account about these twins, these two nations, these two opposing forces, one the flesh and one the spiritual, one will seek spiritual things and a relationship with God and one will only concern himself with his own selfish fleshly desires.

Esau: He represents the flesh and much like Balaam he is byword throughout the Bible and a warning to all that would follow his footsteps.

Jacob: He represents the Spirit, the one who desires God above all other things. He will be praised by God throughout the Bible as we will see.

God weighs in on the issue of these two sons, in His sovereignty and foreknowledge He selects the one who will follow Him. God will choose Jacob over Esau to carry on the Messianic line and that's good enough for me.....**Rom 9:10-13**

These boys are contrasted..... We will see in Vs 27

27 So the boys grew.....but Jacob was a mild man,

Mild: Or Plain Lit. 'Perfect or Complete or Mature'

It is the same word God uses to describe the character of Job in **Job 1:8** translated for us there as blameless.....

Job 1:8 Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"

34Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Esau despised the things of the Lord, and was only interested in himself, the temporal things, the here and now, nothing of lasting or eternal consequence, thus rejecting the 'Everlasting One'. I believe we struggle with the account of these two boys, because we truly lack spiritual insight. I think we identify with Esau more than we do with Jacob, poor Esau was ripped off we think, and to our great shame we struggle to understand this account. We think Jacob ripped off Esau, and Laban along with everyone else he came into contact with, and if you look at the accounts from the right perspective given to us here in this chapter, none of these assertions are anywhere close to the truth of the facts.

It reminds me of Peter's rebuke of the Lord when He had told of His eminent death.....

Mark 8:33 But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, "Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

I pray we would reserve our harsh criticism against Jacob.....

The N.T. gives us a commentary on these two men and what God thinks about them.....

Their lives bore out and proved God's choice of Jacob.

Esau: **Heb 12:16-17** lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. 17 For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

God hates the things of the Flesh, this nature is at enmity with the things and government of God. It is the essence self-sufficiency, Esau represents the man that doesn't need God and doesn't recognize his own nakedness and vulnerability and deep need. He would further prove his carnality by choosing wives from the neighboring tribes, this act of rejecting the promises of purity that God desired clearly brought God and his parents great grief. **Gen 26:34-35**

Easu was 40 years old when he married these two women. It was a deliberate choice and was certainly made against the counsel of his parents and against God's will.

---*Morris*---

27 So the boys grew. And Esau was a skillful hunter, The only other hunter mentioned in the bible is 'Nimrod the mighty hunter before [literally 'against'] the Lord.'

One biblical hunter was a rebel against God, the other was sportsman unconcerned with God. Esau preferred playing out in the field ---Morris---

God loves the man who needs Him. Esau was satisfied with what he was; Jacob wanted more than he was. Esau never saw visions, never wrestled with angels; although God was as near to him as to Jacob. Esau refused to sacrifice anything to the spiritual; he could never think of anything but the present. He was willing to sell the promise of the future for a mess of pottage, and thereby he wronged himself. ---Oswald Chambers---

Jacob: In spite of God's clearly revealed will and insight, and the obvious superiority of Jacob's character, heart and desire for Spiritual things, and the fact that Esau despised and rejected the promises of God and had no desire to be the spiritual leader of the family or any desire to have a godly heritage we still find blame with Jacob.

The prevailing view of Jacob by the majority of commentators and modern teachers goes something like this.....

'He came honestly by his crookedness'. How could God bless such a sly schemer, liar and deceiver, a 'supplanter' as this man Jacob. Clearly his only interest is in himself and his advancement over others and to gain advantage by any means possible no holds barred. He has no scruples, he is crafty and manipulative, and how could God use such a man, when his brother seems so much taken advantage of by him, Esau is a good guy, a strong outdoor kind of guy, much more suited to leading the family than this Jacob. Many pastors and bible teachers, who outwardly would deny strongly that they are anti-Jewish, nevertheless seem to let their hidden feelings on the subject come out when dealing with Jacob.---Morris---

The negative caricatures of Jacob is fuel for the fire of anti-Semitism, characterizing the Jewish people as shrewd, selfish, fully taking advantage of others for their own personal gain. Jacob has a strong but patient temperament he is called a perfect man, an upright man, and we will see faith operate through this man in a much different way than that of his father or grandfather.

The history of Jacob consists of the account of five Divine communications.

We see both the fears and the faith of this man are made manifest for all to see, notwithstanding for all his faults and failures, this child of faith, is indeed an instrument through whom it was possible for God to carry forward His purposes. That after a career checkered from the beginning, Jacob enters into rest. The story shines from beginning to end with the light of solemn warning, and of tender encouragement. ---Morgan---

Jacob would have to learn a higher call means a higher and deeper call to death to self and as his life unfolds this become clear. He wanted to be blessed and to be a blessing, however for God to use us in this way a much more profound sacrifice of our lives is necessary. His name would be forever changed later in life to Israel, as testimony to God's faithfulness to change us and shape us into his image, making us fit for His work of Agape love and self-sacrificial life.

The birthright you seek is not to be found on the mountain but in the valley. You think the securing of the prize would make you the superior of Esau. The higher you would climb, the deeper must be your bending. The divine right of kings is their right to be servants—servants to the lowliest, if you desire your brother's birthright, it would be on the ground not that you will gain more riches, but that you are capable of more sacrifice than he.

---Matheson---