

Devotional One: God will provide

Read through Genesis 24:1-28 then work through the Devotional guide.

Summary:

Sarah has died, and Abraham needs to find a wife for his son, Issac. He gets his most trusted servant, Eliezer, and sends him back to his homeland to try and find a wife. In these first twenty-eight verses, We see Eliezer's hesitancy and his bargaining with Abraham and then God. Through Eliezer's hesitation and high expectations, God provides. God provides a woman who hits all of Eliezer's requirements.

Key points:

This story is descriptive, not instructive:

- What does that mean? This story describes what happened. It is not instructing us on how to live our lives. There is still plenty to glean, plenty to learn from this story but it is not the law.

There is no need for us to pray conditionally to God, he will provide:

- In verses twelve through 14, Eliezer prays in a way that we should never pray. He prays conditionally to God. He was tasked with finding a wife for Issac but through his prayer is creating boxes that God has to check. He creates an unreal expectation that the woman has to give water to all of the camels he brought. With some simple math, we can figure out that ten camels that each can drink up to 30 gallons of water per sitting is three hundred gallons of water total. Three hundred gallons weigh about 2502 pounds. So to give all of the camels a drink would require an extreme amount of effort. Eliezer was assuming that he could not find anyone who would fit his extreme demands.

God will answer our prayers, sometimes not in the ways or timing that we expect. But He will provide:

- Even through Elizer's impossible task, God provides. We see in verse fifteen that before Elizer had even finished speaking before he had even finished praying, God provided. God provided Rebekah, who checked every single box that Eliezer had put before God

Key verses

- 2-8 / In these verses, we see Abraham instruct Eliezer on how to find a wife for Eliezer.

- 12-15 / In these verses, we see Eliezer's conditional prayer to God, and Him providing in a way that Eliezer did not expect.
- 26-27 / We see Eliezer praise the Lord after He provided a wife for Issac

Bottom Line:

God will provide. No matter how we pray, when we are faithful, God will provide. We should never pray conditionally to God, but He will always provide. No matter the situation or circumstance, our Lord will provide. God will provide, but He will often provide in ways that we don't expect, or sometimes, don't want. But we have to trust in His plan for our lives.

Self Reflection questions:

- Do you find yourself praying conditionally to God?
- How can you get out of that habit? How are we taught how to pray by Jesus?
- How have you seen God answer your prayers in ways that you were not expecting?

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer today praying that God continues to reveal his plan to you and to reveal how he is answering our prayers, even when they are in ways that we do not expect or want. Thank God for providing and for being there when we need Him the most.

Devotional Two: God's plan is good

Read through Genesis 24:29-51 then work through the Devotional guide.

Summary:

In Genesis 24:29-51, we see Eliezer enter the home of Rebekah's family. He meets her family and tells them why he is there. Eliezer tells the story of how God has worked in the life of Abraham and how met Rebekah at the well. He then asks her brother, Laban, and her father, Bethuel, if he can take her back to Issac to be his wife. They tell Eliezer, yes, that they will not get in the way of God.

Key points:

The faith of Abraham and Eliezer shows through their actions and their story.

- We can see the faith of Abraham and Eliezer through their actions and their stories. Both Abraham and Eliezer are not perfect, they have stumbled in their walks but they are faithful. They do not let their mistakes hinder the impact that the Lord has on their lives. Others can see their faith by how they carry themselves. We, as Christians, should carry ourselves in a way that shows others the love of God. Others should see our faith through our actions and words.

Our faith has an impact on the people we interact with

- Rebekah's family sees the impact that God has had on the lives of both Abraham and Eliezer and does not want to stand in God's way. They give Eliezer permission to take Rebekah back to Issac because of their faith.

We see God's faithfulness and love through the stories of our lives

- We can see God's faithfulness and love through the stories of our lives, meaning we can see the impact of God in our day-to-day lives. No matter how many times we stumble, no matter how many times we sin against God, He still loves us and brings us back on a path of righteousness.

Key verses

- 34-41 / We see a retelling of Abraham's story and instructions to Eliezer in these verses.
- 44-46 / In these verses, Eliezer tells the story of his conditional prayer and how God provided
- 48 / Eliezer praises God in the midst of his stories in these verses.

- 50-51 / We can see that the faiths of Laban and Bethuel are impacted by the faiths of Abraham and Eliezer in these verses.

Bottom Line:

Our faith should be an everyday faith, not a Sunday faith. Meaning, that we are called to faith every single day, no matter the situation. We should be able to see the impact of our faith on others and on the stories of our lives. When we lead a life of faith, we not only impact ourselves but also impact everyone around us.

Self-reflection questions:

- How do these verses challenge your faith to be like Abraham and Eliezer?
- How can your faith impact all of the people you interact with?
- How can you see God's love and faithfulness through the story of your life?
- How can you see God's love and faithfulness in the lives of the people around you?

Guided Prayer:

Spend time in prayer about the health of your faith. Pray that your faith can grow and develop into one that is showcased in every aspect of your life. Pray that you can continue to see God's love and faithfulness through the stories of our lives and the lives of others. Give thanks to God that we have the stories of people with great faith, so we can seek out growth to have faith like them.

Devotional Three: When God calls, be ready.

Read through Genesis 24:52-67 then work through the Devotional guide.

Summary:

Here in Genesis 24:52-67, we see that Rebekah's family has some hesitations the next day about sending off Rebekah. They want her to stay a couple of days, most likely to talk her out of going. Eliezer tells the family that he needs to get back, that God has prospered his trip and provided. Rebekah's family leaves it up to her. They ask her if wants to go and she answers with three simple words, "I will go." So they head back to where Abraham and his family were living at the time. Rebekah and Issac meet, and then get married.

Key points:

When God calls, be ready to pick up the phone!

- God has chosen a plan for us and will call us to it. We need to be prepared and equipped to face whatever challenges that we face physically and spiritually. We won't be perfect, just like Abraham and Eliezer weren't, but we need to still be faithful to God and the plan he has carved out for us. When we are equipping ourselves, we are better preparing ourselves to properly discern what God is calling us to do.

Do not delay in what God has planned for you

- When God has shown you his plan for you, do not hesitate! Do not let anything or anyone stop you from fulfilling what God has called you to do. Abraham would not have been able to be a father to all of the nations like God had promised if Eliezer and Rebekah had not answered God's call. Do not hesitate.

Key verses to cover:

- 54-58 / We see Eliezer and Rebekah answer God's call despite the family trying to get Rebekah to stay.

Bottom Line:

When God calls, we need to be prepared to pick up the phone. We need to equip ourselves and be prepared for the path that God has set us on. We cannot let anything or anyone delay us in chasing after the plan that God has carved out for us.

Self-reflection questions:

- What are some ways that you have tried to delay God's plan for you in the past?
- How can you better equip yourself to pick up the phone the next time God calls?
- Reflect on how God has been calling you recently. How have you been running to or running away from his call? Has He been calling you to serve somewhere in the Church? Serve in Ministry? Has God been calling you out of sin and into a new lifestyle?

Spend time in prayer this next week on how God is calling you and how to equip yourself to be able to answer His call. Pray that God surrounds you with people who will help equip you and help you answer the call, not hold you back.