

## **A Portrait of Beauty**

Genesis 24: 15-21; 54-67

For the sake of time we have picked up in the middle of the story this evening. This account in Scripture is dealing with Abraham's desire for his son, Isaac, to have a wife. Now, God had called Abraham out of the land of Ur of the Chaldees into the land of Canaan with the promise of a mighty nation to be born of him. When it seemed that the promise would fail, God sent Abraham a son in his old age. Abraham has become old and is about to die and he desired Isaac to have a wife that would please the Lord.

He has sent his servant to seek out a wife for Isaac among his people. The servant does as he was commanded and finds Rebekah in the country of Abraham's kindred. There are several approaches that one could take to this passage, and they are all good, but I want to look at the life of Rebekah as she relates to the young ladies of our day. In her life we see a portrait of beauty in regard to a life that is surrendered and lived for the Lord. I want to consider a couple of aspects in regard to Rebekah's life and how they are still needful in our day. I want to think on the thought: [A Portrait of Beauty](#).

**I. An Appealing Life Socially** (15-21) – As Abraham's servant first encounters Rebekah he discovers a young lady who is very appealing.

- Clearly we need some young ladies, and young men as well, who are appealing socially. Many in our day have abandoned their convictions in order to conform and fit in with the world. We need those who will rise above and stand out from the crowd. So what was appealing about Rebekah?

**A. Her Family** (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.](#) Rebekah was of the proper lineage that Abraham desired. She was among his kindred.

- That may seem insignificant to you today, but there is a tremendous lesson to be learned. Many in our day are ashamed of their heritage. Many loath the fact that their parents are committed to serving the Lord. There are those who wish they could only be more like the world. They want to live as others do and be able to participate in the things that the world offers.

- If you have a good mother and daddy, you ought to praise the Lord for them. I know that when we are young many times we think that they are overbearing and unreasonable, but I can assure you that they have your best interest at heart. They are trying to lead you in the right direction so that your life doesn't end in ruin.

- Now, let me say that not all of us are fortunate enough to have a good, godly lineage. You may not be from a long line of preachers or those who served the Lord. That is OK; don't let that defeat you. You can be the one to step up and make a difference for the glory of God. You can ensure that starting with you the family tree will look much different. Just determine in your heart to live for God.

**B. Her Faithfulness** (16) – *And the damsel was very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her: and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up.* We find that Rebekah was a beautiful young lady. She was very fair to look upon, but her beauty went much deeper than what was revealed on the surface. She was beautiful because she was pure. Rebekah had not defiled herself with any other man. She had kept herself pure until the day of her marriage.

- I want to mention a couple of things here. First of all we live in a society that is beauty conscious. It seems that most are judged and promoted in life based on outer beauty. That is a great tragedy in our day. Outer beauty is in no way as important as the inner beauty. Outer beauty will fade with time, but inner beauty will continue to grow and manifest itself with age. Young people don't let this world draw you into that trap. God sees more than what is on the surface and if a young man is looking at you based on your appearance, he won't be around long anyway. Don't judge yourself based on physical looks, but live for God and see beauty as He does!

- Also we need to notice that Rebekah was pure physically. We live in a society that rejects and in many cases mocks purity in young people. I know that you are faced with peer pressure to give up your purity for popularity. That is a road that is headed for danger and destruction. I want to challenge you to maintain your purity. Save yourself for the mate that God has intended for you to have. He will bless you abundantly in the end.

- By the way, if that young man says that this is the only way to prove your love, tell him that if he loved and respected you, he would be willing to wait! If that is all he's interested in, you don't need him. God orchestrated Rebekah's wedding and He will yours as well if you'll give Him time.

**C. Her Focus** (17-21) – *And the servant ran to meet her, and said, Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher. 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. 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. And the man wondering at her held his peace, to wit whether the Lord had made his journey prosperous or not.* Rebekah's life wasn't lived just to please herself. She was conscious and aware of the needs of others. She was willing to be used of God for the benefit of others.

- It would do us all good to understand that this life isn't all about us. We are not here to provide for ourselves at the expense of others. The world doesn't revolve around us in order to provide our every desire.
- Jesus came and ministered to a lost and dying world. The Master became a Servant. Young people, avail yourselves to service for the Lord. Be willing to be used of God. Don't look at every situation only considering how you can benefit from it, but how others may be helped and our Lord glorified. One of the greatest ways that we can be like Jesus is when we are willing to serve others for Him. Life isn't about the latest fashion or toy.

## **I. An Appealing Life Socially (15-21)**

**II. An Abundant Life Spiritually (54-67)** – Rebekah's response to Abraham's servant paints a beautiful picture spiritually. Abraham represents God the Father, Isaac pictures our Lord, and the servant represents the Holy Ghost. In this passage we find the key to an abundant spiritual life.

**A. A Personal Decision (54-58)** – The servant had spent the night with them and he was now ready to go. He had asked for Rebekah's hand in marriage to Isaac. The family was willing but desired that she be able to stay with them for at least ten days. The servant didn't want to be hindered so Rebekah was given the choice. [Gen.24:57-58 – And they said, We will call the damsel, and enquire at her mouth. And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go.](#)

- This was a decision that Rebekah had to make. It wasn't something that could have been decided for her. She had to choose. The same is true in each of our lives. I had to make that choice myself. Just because I had made that choice didn't excuse my children. They too had to decide. Each of us must make that personal decision.

- There was an appointed time for the servant and Rebekah to leave. There is also an appointed time for salvation. When the Lord is dealing with your heart, that is the time to respond to Him. Rebekah didn't have the option to go when it pleased her. [2 Cor.6:2 – \(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.\)](#)

**B. A Particular Direction (61)** – [And Rebekah arose, and her damsels, and they rode upon the camels, and followed the man: and the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.](#) She had no idea what lay ahead. She was on a journey to an unknown land, one to which she had never been. She didn't know the way, but she trusted the servant to guide her. She would've never made it without the guidance of the servant.

- Our Christian journey is no different. We don't know what lies ahead of us. We are on a journey to a land far away, one that we've never seen. We cannot get there in and of ourselves. We need the guidance and direction of the good Holy Spirit.
- Young people don't allow this world and its influences to dictate and direct your path. Following the Lord is at times uncertain in our eyes, but He is always certain and secure. You will never go wrong by following the Lord. This world will offer nothing but pain and suffering, but following Jesus will lead to life abundant.

**C. A Passionate Devotion** (63-65) – *And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming. And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel. For she had said unto the servant, What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant had said, It is my master: therefore she took a vail, and covered herself.*

- As the caravan was on its way Isaac was anxiously awaiting their arrival. As they neared home, Rebekah saw a man she had never met standing in the field. When she enquired as to who he was, she found that this was to be her husband. She had never met him, but there was a passionate devotion for him. She lighted of the camel in order to meet him.
- If I could challenge us to do one thing, it would be to develop a passionate devotion to Jesus. Like Rebekah, we have never met Him face to face, but many have met Him through eyes of faith. I do know enough to know that He cared for me when I wasn't even aware of Him. He made provision to bring me out of a land of bondage into a land of eternal life. He purchased my redemption on the cross of Calvary. He settled my sin debt and marked it "Paid in full." Surely I ought to be devoted to One such as He.

**D. A Precious Discovery** (67) – *And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.* It was a long journey to bring Rebekah, but Isaac loved his new bride. He took her in and cared for her, making her his own.

- What a beautiful reminder to the believer in this passage. We are loved beyond measure. We were brought from a distant land and made part of the bride of Christ our Lord. He loves us tonight. He loves us so much that He gave His very life for ours. He is right now preparing a home in heaven and the banquet table will one day be spread for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.
- If you haven't thought of it in a while, may I remind you that Jesus loves you? He cares for you today. In fact He wants to show you just how much He loves you. Many times we allow the cares and distractions of this life to interfere, but I rejoice that Jesus loves me.

I don't know where you are this evening, but Jesus does. Maybe there are some areas that you need to deal with socially. Maybe you just need to go to mom or dad and thank them for being that example. Maybe you need to seek the Lord in remaining pure for Him or in service as He desires.

Maybe you've never been saved, but you feel as if God has spoken to your heart this evening. Just as Isaac waited upon Rebekah, Jesus stands waiting upon you as well. Why not be obedient to Him?