

The Marriages of Jacob and his Repentance Part 1

“1 And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan. 2 Arise, go to Padanaram, to the house of Bethuel thy mother's father; and take thee a wife from thence of the daughters of Laban thy mother's brother. 3 And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people; 4 And give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham. 5 And Isaac sent away Jacob: and he went to Padanaram unto Laban, son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother. 6 When Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob, and sent him away to Padanaram, to take him a wife from thence; and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan; 7 And that Jacob obeyed his father and his mother, and was gone to Padanaram; 8 And Esau seeing that the daughters of Canaan pleased not Isaac his father; 9 Then went Esau unto Ishmael, and took unto the wives which he had Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife. 10 And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran.” (Genesis 28:1-10 KJV)

Jacob was sent by his father to the house of Bethuel, his mother's father, to take a wife from there from the daughter of Laban his mother's brother. Isaac sent him there because he does not want him to get a wife from the daughters of Canaan. Esau the twin of Jacob had done that, and Isaac and his wife Rebekah got disgusted because of such, ***“34 And Esau was forty years old when he took to wife Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Bashemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite: 35 Which were a grief of mind unto Isaac and to Rebekah.” (Genesis 26:34-35 KJV)***, that is why Isaac did not want his son Jacob to do the same. Therefore he sent him to Padanaram to get a wife from there.

Isaac did not want Jacob to marry from the women of Canaan, so they will not turn his heart away from God toward their idols. Isaac followed the same principles of his father Abraham in choosing a wife for him, not from those who were living around them in Canaan, but by sending his servant, who fetch Rebekah from Mesopotamia and brought her as a wife to Isaac. Now Isaac was doing the same principle, but here Isaac did not send any of his servants to find the wife and bring her to Jacob, because he was in hurry wanted to save Jacob from the hand of Esau who wanted to kill Jacob because he deceived his father and took the blessing for himself, therefore, Isaac sent his son Jacob alone, to get a wife for himself from there.

Jacob obeyed the instruction of his father and honored the desire of his parents and God, and did not marry as Esau his brother did from the daughters of Canaan. But he went to Padanaram to marry a wife from there in obedience to the instruction that he received from his Godly father.

When he reached there, Jacob did not observe what the servant of Abraham did to find a wife for Isaac. Let us read the story of how Jacob reached the conclusion to choose his wife:

“1 Then Jacob went on his journey, and came into the land of the people of the east. 2 And he looked, and behold a well in the field, and, lo, there were three flocks of sheep lying by

it; for out of that well they watered the flocks: and a great stone was upon the well's mouth. 3 And thither were all the flocks gathered: and they rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the sheep, and put the stone again upon the well's mouth in his place. 4 And Jacob said unto them, My brethren, whence be ye? And they said, Of Haran are we. 5 And he said unto them, Know ye Laban the son of Nahor? And they said, We know him. 6 And he said unto them, Is he well? And they said, He is well: and, behold, Rachel his daughter cometh with the sheep. 7 And he said, Lo, it is yet high day, neither is it time that the cattle should be gathered together: water ye the sheep, and go and feed them. 8 And they said, We cannot, until all the flocks be gathered together, and till they roll the stone from the well's mouth; then we water the sheep. 9 And while he yet spake with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep; for she kept them. 10 And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother. 11 And Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice, and wept. 12 And Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's brother, and that he was Rebekah's son: and she ran and told her father. 13 And it came to pass, when Laban heard the tidings of Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embraced him, and kissed him, and brought him to his house. And he told Laban all these things. 14 And Laban said to him, Surely thou art my bone and my flesh. And he abode with him the space of a month. 15 And Laban said unto Jacob, Because thou art my brother, shouldest thou therefore serve me for nought? tell me, what shall thy wages be? 16 And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. 17 Leah was tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured. 18 And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter. 19 And Laban said, It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me. 20 And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her.” (Genesis 29:1-20 KJV) From the narrative that we had read, we can conclude that Jacob made his conclusion to marry Rachel based on his eyes sensual perception alone. He loved her and he married her. He loved her just because she was beautiful and well-favored. Jacob was sent by Isaac to take a wife from Laban that is why when he first arrived and met the men of Haran, he asked them about Laban son of Nahor. They answered him that he was well and they pointed out to him that his daughter Rachel was coming with her father's sheep. Once Jacob saw Rachel, he run to her and kissed her. After that, he informed her who was he, and she in return ran and informed her father, Laban, who came joyfully to meet his sister's son, embraced him, kissed him, and brought him to his house.

After Jacob spent one month with his uncle, Jacob named his wages to his uncle Laban, to serve him seven years for Rachel. Now the choice of Jacob to Rachel was based only on her beauty, being the daughter of Laban, and he loved her. But Laban had two daughters, Leah and Rachel. And based on his feelings alone Jacob chose to marry Rachel. **Many today do the same, they marry whom they love. But they don't consider who God is choosing for them. They marry with what they like of criteria of beauty but they don't look to the attitude or the character.**

When Rachel saw Jacob rolling the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother, she did not tell him not to do that, and she did not stop him. She did not consider the rules that the region followed to water the sheep that all the flocks should be gathered together, and then they will roll the stone from the well's mouth, to let the sheep

be watered and then to close the mouth of the well so in such they will keep the water clean and keep control on the amount of water they spend in order to be sufficient for all the needs. Jacob did not see that bad attitude in Rachel, that she was glad to be favored inspite that she was affecting the welfare of others. **Therefore you need to wait upon God to give you the right woman with a good attitude that will meet your needs.**

The description of the Scripture to Leah is the following: ***“Leah was tender eyed.” (Genesis 29:17 KJV)*** The meaning of ‘tender’ as character and attitude is ‘loving’, ‘caring’, ‘affectionate’, ‘fond’, ‘kind’, ‘kindhearted’, ‘gentle’, ‘warm’, and ‘compassionate’. These are what the Scripture describes as the unfading beauty of the hidden man of the heart, ***“4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.” (1 Peter 3:4 KJV)*** Jacob like many of the men today could not see such kind of beauty that of great price in the sight of God, and that led him to make a wrong decision. He relied on his eyes more than on his mind to make such a decision to choose Rachel as his wife, but she was not the choice of God. Jacob did not even pray or ask from the mouth of God, what His plan was for him, and what wife He chose for him.

*** Now a day many men would work very hard to marry a woman who is not God’s choice for them just because they like her face and body characters. * They are only attracted to the woman because of physical external beauty but not out of divine purpose and appointment of God. * Our young adult men may fall in the same fault as Jacob and suffered the consequences of such mistakes the rest of their lives, therefore we need to be aware and protect them.**

If we go to the servant of Abraham and follow the way that he used to find out the choice of God to find a wife for Isaac, we will notice the real difference and what the problem of Jacob was.

“10 And the servant took ten camels of the camels of his master, and departed; for all the goods of his master were in his hand: and he arose, and went to Mesopotamia, unto the city of Nahor. 11 And he made his camels to kneel down without the city by a well of water at the time of the evening, even the time that women go out to draw water. 12 And he said O LORD God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham. 13 Behold, I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water: 14 And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master. 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. 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. 17 And the servant ran to meet her, and said, Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher. 18 And she said, Drink, my lord: and she hasted, and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink. 19 And when she had done giving him drink, she said, I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking. 20 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. 21 And the man wondering at her held his peace,

to wit whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous or not. 22 And it came to pass, as the camels had done drinking, that the man took a golden earring of half a shekel weight, and two bracelets for her hands of ten shekels weight of gold; 23 And said, Whose daughter art thou? tell me, I pray thee: is there room in thy father's house for us to lodge in? 24 And she said unto him, I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, which she bare unto Nahor. 25 She said moreover unto him, We have both straw and provender enough, and room to lodge in. 26 And the man bowed down his head, and worshipped the LORD. 27 And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth: I being in the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren.” (Genesis 24:10-27 KJV) The servant of Abraham intentionally went to the well of water where the women of the city go to draw water. He was waiting in a place that women would come to draw water. There in that place, he prayed to God to show him among those women who drew water, who was among them, the wife of Isaac. He was mindful to find him a suitable housewife, who worked hard in the house and who was not idle but hard-working carrying water to sustain the dynamics of the house and the family. So he was mindful that God would give him an industrious wife to Isaac. While he was in that place, he did not use his eyes to choose but he prayed and allowed God to choose for him whom He had prepared for Isaac. His prayer was this, ***“13 Behold, I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water: 14 And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master.” (Genesis 24:13-14 KJV)*** In his prayer, he was asking God to give him, a kind, gentle, generous, and loving woman that will be a suitable wife to his master son. That she will be willing to give him a drink. As well as loving, compassionate on the animals, hospitable toward the guests, and she would have the initiative to water the animals. That will be the kind of woman that will be suitable for Isaac. After he prayed God listened to his prayer and sent the woman that had such an attitude to be the wife for Isaac. ***“18 And she said, Drink, my lord: and she hasted, and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink. 19 And when she had done giving him drink, she said, I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking. 20 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.” (Genesis 24:18-20 KJV)*** She had a good spirit and the initiative to give and supply the needs. When Abraham’s servant asked her, whose daughter was she and if there was any room in her father’s house to lodge in, she answered whose daughter was she, and she added that they have a provender to feed his animals, and a room for the guests to lodge in: ***“24 And she said unto him, I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, which she bare unto Nahor. 25 She said moreover unto him, We have both straw and provender enough, and room to lodge in.” (Genesis 24:24-25 KJV)*** The servant of Abraham noticed another important character for the woman to be a suitable wife for Isaac, ***“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.” (Genesis 24:16 KJV)***

- ***Fair to look upon:*** The servant of Abraham did not ask God that the girl to be beautiful. He asked God that the girl to have good character. God answered the good thing that he asked and added to the girl beauty. **Every woman chosen by God for marriage is beautiful in the eyes of those who fear God.**

- **Virgin, neither had any man known her:** The girl was living in holiness, away from immoralities.

If we compare what the servant of Abraham did with what Jacob did, we can discover the great difference in how both reached their decisions and how the servant of Abraham reached the choice of God and how Jacob missed what God had prepared for him.

Jacob used his eyes and heart to choose his wife. The servant of Abraham used his mind to think and he prayed and asked God to give him the right woman. It might be better for our young people to be aided by well-experienced people to help them in their choices for marriage. Godly parents and Godly church leaders can be an indispensable aid for the young people today in their choice for Godly partner of God's choice. They need to be taught to pray and kneel at the Lord's feet who will bring to them their right partner for life. I am not saying here that parents should choose for their children. But what I am saying is the following: God is the one to choose, Godly partners, and Godly church leaders confirmed it and endorse it to those who are seeking Godly marriage.

Jacob was sent alone, therefore he was misled and the evil one took advantage of him. He was first misled by his heart and eyes and second he was misled by Laban his father in law. We should not allow our children and our young people to be alone for such tasks.

My Dear and Beloved: The real story of Jacob and how he chose to marry is a good lesson for us today to heed and to consider our ways before God. If you are at the age of marriage, it is a time for you to renew your mind and to be willing not to follow your eyes and your emotions and what you like but to follow God and the leading of the Holy Spirit and what He is leading you to do and to be. It is the time for you not to be conformed to the pattern of this world but to renew your mind and your thought and start to follow God and desire to do His will.

If you are parent then make up your mind and be willing to protect your adult children who had reached the age of marriage and lead them not into temptation and fall into what Jacob had fell into, but work it out with God to go with them and help them to start their families in a Godly way.

Come now to God in repentance surrendering your life and your will and your future into His hand and be willing to do what God is asking you to do. Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for your teaching and thank you for all the corrections and the admonishments that I received in this message for my own good and benefit and for the benefit of my family and children.

Come now to God and confess and renounce all your sins. Confess and renounce your worldliness, the lust of your eyes and your love for worldly things. Confess and renounce your emotions and following your own will and plan and not the will and the plan of God. Confess and renounce your lack of discernment and your wrong understanding and your wrong priorities in pertain to marriage. Confess your marriage with nonbelievers and your own choice and not the choice of God. Confess and renounce your lack of prayers and your non willingness to hear the leading of the Holy Spirit. Confess and renounce your pride,

disobedience, non teachable spirit, and stubbornness. Confess your negligence and carelessness toward your children and doing your part toward them in pertain to marriage. Confess and renounce your yoke with non believers, many friends and in bondage and wasting your time with the Media, News and games. Confess and renounce your bad example and your non willingness to serve God and suffer for Him. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to follow your will and your good plan for me in marriage and to start Godly family. Lord I am willing to surrender my plan and my will and to renew my mind according to the Word of God I received in this message. Lord I commit myself to apply what I learned in this message to lead my children into having Godly marriages with the partners that you choose for them.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, and humbled themselves willing to follow your will and plan for them in their life. Lord bless them, provide for them, answer their prayers and lead them into your will in their lives. Lord I pray for others who still not repented and is doing their own will. Lord humble them, teach them your ways and grant them repentance so they will follow your will.

Lord, bless us as your church. and help us to continue to teach and implement the preparation for Godly marriage and to prepare your people to do your will and your plan in their lives, so when you come we are ready to take us. Lord I pray for more Godly marriages and Godly families to be formed in the name of Jesus. Lord we ask you to refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need in order to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to get water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God. Lord take the message and spread it to reach all the members, workers, congregations, the families of the church, and others who need your Word. ' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

The Marriages of Jacob and his Repentance Part 1. Genesis 28:1-10. Genesis 26:34-35. Genesis 29:1-20. 1 Peter 3:4. Genesis 24:10-27.

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