

Life Lesson 13
Isaac and Rebekah
Text: Genesis 24

Introduction

Are any of you thinking about getting married? Probably not anytime soon! But it's not too early to decide to trust God to pick out the right person for you. Having the right husband or wife, or the even the right friends, makes a big difference in how well you will be able to serve the Lord. That's what our story is about today.

The Story

Isaac had grown up and was ready to get married. Abraham was *very* old by now and he worried about getting Isaac a wife. He was too old to go out and look for someone himself, so he called his oldest and most trustworthy servant.

"I want you to find a wife for my son, Isaac," Abraham told him. "I don't want him to marry someone from around here. Everyone here worships idols. I want you to go back to my country and my family and pick out a wife from there."

Abraham wanted the best for his son, so he commanded his servant to pick out a wife from the people who loved and worshiped God.

"But, what if I can't get the woman to come with me?" the servant answered. "Maybe I ought to take Isaac with me and let him help persuade the girl to come. She might not be willing to go to a strange country to marry someone she has never seen before."

"No," Abraham said. "Don't take my son back there again, because this is the land God promised to give him and I want him to stay here. If she won't come, don't worry about it, you've done your part. But, God will send an angel before you to prepare the way, so I'm sure you will succeed."

So the servant set off to find a wife for Isaac. What a big responsibility that was! He must have been worried about finding just the right one.

"Lord, I need your help," he prayed. "I'll stand here by the well, and all the girls from the town come here to get water. I'll ask them for a drink. The one who says, 'drink, and let me get water for your camels, too' will be the one you want Isaac to marry."

Now, she couldn't do that by turning on the water faucet. She had to dip the water out of the well. It wouldn't be so bad to give a man enough to drink, but it would be lots of work to fill up a camel! Not many girls would make an offer like that.

He hadn't even finished praying when a beautiful young girl came up to the well.

"May I have a drink, please?" he asked .

"Surely," she replied, "And I will give your camels a drink, too."

He could hardly believe God would answer his prayer so quickly! But, was she of Abraham's family, one who worshiped the true God?

"Who is your father?" he asked her.

"Bethuel, the son of Milcah and Nahor," she answered.

Nahor was Abraham's brother. She and Isaac were distant cousins. Now the only question was, would she come?

The servant gave her the presents Abraham had sent, and told the girl, whose name was Rebekah, why he had come. He explained to her brother, Laban, too, and asked if she could come with him to marry Isaac.

"It's up to Rebekah," Laban replied. "If she wants to go, I won't stop her."

"Yes, I'll go," she said.

The servant bowed his head and thanked God for answering his prayer and directing him to just the right girl for Isaac.

They started back on the long trip to the land of Canaan. Do you think Rebekah might have been a little nervous, thinking about marrying someone she had never seen before? Maybe Isaac was a little concerned, too. He was out in the field meditating-- maybe thinking about his future wife.

As the camels approached, Rebekah saw Isaac.

"Who is that?" she asked the servant.

"That's my master," the servant told her.

She got down from the camel and covered herself with a veil.

Isaac married Rebekah, and the Bible tells us that he loved her and that she made him happy.

The Life Lesson

Why do you think Abraham didn't want Isaac to marry someone from the

Canaanites? He knew that if Isaac married a woman who served another God, it might turn his heart away from the true God. That would be the very worst thing that could happen to him.

That happens to Christians today who marry people who don't love and serve God. Christians who marry people who aren't saved are never happy in their marriage. They don't lose their salvation, of course, but they can't serve God in the same way as they could have if they had married someone who loved God, too.

None of you are thinking about getting married right now (I hope!). But the same thing is true about your friends. You become like the people you are around the most. If your best friends are good Christians who love God and want to do right, it will help you to do right, too. If you hang around with lost kids who get in trouble all the time--you'll find yourself in trouble, too!

When you leave things in God's hands, He will give you the best. That is true about the one you marry, and also about every area in your life.

Review Questions

What did Abraham send his servant to do?

To find a wife for Isaac.

Why couldn't Isaac marry someone from the land of Canaan where he lived?

Because those people worshiped idols.

Who would go ahead of the servant to prepare the way?

An angel.

What sign did the servant ask God to give him?

That the girl would offer to give him a drink and to water his camels, too.

How soon did God answer the prayer?

As soon as the servant finished praying.

Who was the girl who became Isaac's wife?

Rebekah

Was Isaac happy with the girl God chose for him?

Yes, he loved her and was happy with her.

Will you be happy with the person God picks out for you?

Yes, God always chooses the best for His children.