

## And then some...

Genesis 24 v 46

"She quickly lowered her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels too.' So I drank, and she watered the camels also

We have in the Bible many types of Christ – can you think of some?

- Isaac is one such type.
- He is the fathers son.
- He was born by supernatural conception, his mother was 90, his Dad 100 years old – Jesus was born by supernatural conception
- Isaac was named before his birth – Jesus was named before his birth
- Isaac carried wood up on his back ready to be sacrificed on a hill by his father – Jesus carried the wooden cross on his back, ready to be sacrificed on a hill by his father.

It is therefore quick easy to see the similarities between Jesus and Isaac.

In the bible it was the responsibility of the parents to find the mate for their child, the kids didn't get to go on holidays, fall in love and find a new boyfriend / girlfriend. They didn't get to go to a club, and pick up someone's number. They didn't find someone in the churches youth club, but it was the responsibility of the parents.

And the Bible says in this chapter (Gen 24) that Abraham had his beloved son Isaac and sent his trusted chief servant, to go out and find a bride for son. He loads down ten camels with gold, with silver, with rubies, with diamonds, with every precious material thing you could dream for. Ten loaded down camel for the bride to be, just simply as a down payment of things to be.

Now I want you to see this! What would determine who the servant choose to be the bride? If we were sent out to find a bride for a really important person, what would we look for? How would we think having so much wealth, that we need to find the right person, not just because of the gift, but because they will become the wife of our masters most treasured son.

Now if Isaac is a type of Christ, this is dealing with much bigger issue then just finding a godly partner. If Jesus is the Bridegroom and the we (the church) are the bride, what is God looking for in a bride!

It may really surprise you, the chief servant was not out looking for the women with the most beautiful make-up, the deepest blue eyes, the best figure or any other the other stuff we look for. He wasn't even looking and the extra spiritual stuff we can go crazy with. He want to know just one thing, he has travel 500 miles, with these loaded down camel, carrying all this wealth that no-one knows he carrying. Then he begins to pray at a well, God I put this fleece down before you, that the women, who is the bride to be, be the one who comes up and offer me water and my camels also. These words are so powerful. 'and my camels also'

The bible says that at the same time as he was praying, Rebekkah comes up, with the Jug on her shoulder and he just sits there and watches quietly as she dips that jug in water and kindly says 'sir, would like you some water!'. I can imagine he just looked up maybe not even saying a word, and she continues almost 'automatically' and sir by the way, I will inconvenience myself for a minimal of 3 to 4 hours, and I shall water your camels also.

And the servant is just sitting back, thinking 'of my goodness!' Now we don't really understand that, as the culture of that day was very different to our own, and many of you are still disgusted that the parent could choose the partner for the child.

It was expected in that day, they even had in the old testament the even had something called the law of hospitality. It was expected that you offer them some hospitality. This is also carried over into the new testament where the bible says 'be careful when we are offering hospitality to strangers as we might be unknowingly entertain angels.' It started in the old testament.

So for us to understand this better, when Rebekkah walked up to the servant and asked him if he would like some water, that was expected of her, that was normal, but when she added these words '**and I shall water your camels also**' everything changed because this is what she was saying 'I am going to do everything expected of me, .. and here are some words which will revolutionise your life '...and then some'. Repeat that out loud, 'and then some!'

Don't just do what is required, don't just do what is expected, don't just do what you see other doing, don't just do what your job description says, but start to live a lifestyle, not just doing what is expected, but a lifestyle of 'and then some'. Amazing things will begin to happen in your life.

Now since it is unlikely that you are an expert in camels, we don't really understand how much she had to do, she had 10 camels she had to water, camels hold 40 gallons of water, they had just walked across that desert and the red light on the dashboard was flashing, empty, empty, empty, and she had to fill every one of those camels with 40 gallons of water, that is 400 gallons of water. She was just out to the well to collect some water, maybe she had her best clothes on, or maybe she was in the middle of doing something, maybe she was baking some bread, but she just did it.

Now if that would have been most people, we would have done what we had to do and then got back to living our life. 'here sir, here is a little water, now I am going to get back to my life', 'I am supposed to give you water, but you can water your own ugly camels. But there was something special about this woman, which didn't just grab the attention of the chief servant, but also God, because she later became the great, great, great... grandmother of Jesus because of her attitude. She didn't just give, but then she gave and then some.

What has happened to this attitude in the church, the way most people think is, what can I do, that I can put in as little as possible, and get the most out. What job can I have, where I can work the least and earn the most money. What diet can I start, which I can eat the most food, but lose the most weight. The world and the church are living today, just doing what is expected of me. I am just going to do, what other people do and that is enough. But that me hit you with this 'NO, it's not, if you're a Christian!' because we are supposed to do what is expected of us, and then some.

What is the difference between a highly successful person and an unsuccessful person are these words 'and then some'. A highly successful sport person will going to training, and when everyone else is off the field, they will keep training. And highly successful musician, will not just practise with the band, or during shows, but falls asleep at night play the guitar. The most successful marriage are not marriage which are 50/50, but where both say 'I shall give 100% and then some.

Jesus put it like this 'if they make you go one mile, then go two' (and in this context he was talking about when the Roman soldiers, the people who were oppressing the Jews, could make them carry their bags, armour etc., so they would be expected to carry them one mile - and Jesus was saying, concerning when your enemy makes you walk one mile, walk two, because you are a Christian and you can witness to them who I am in your life) and then some!

Jesus said these words 'except your righteousness exceed that of the Pharisees you shall not make it into heaven, but what was this righteousness of the Pharisees, well they were the ultimate of doing things by the book, what the book said they did, nothing less, ..... but nothing more. It stopped right there! Jesus said, our righteousness isn't going to be so, we are not just going to come to church, because we are expected to come to church, we are not just going to pray because we are expected to pray, we are not just going to give, read our bible, worship because we are expected to, but we shall worship and then some, give and then some and here is a big one, we are suppose to forgive and then some.

So back to Rebekkah, she said, I am not only going to give you water sir, but I am going to water your camels also. WOW. Today is like, I am not only going to fix your car because I am a mechanic, but I am going to wash it also, and when you show up, your going to say wow. I am not only going to build you a house, but I am going to do this little special thing also, I am not even going tell you, but when you say it, you shall go wow! *Make this sentence for your own life!*

Do it because the Bible says to do it.

Extra blessings come from extra efforts, listen here, when Rebekkah went out to water those camels, for 3 to 4 hours, of her own time, she had no idea what they were carrying, she had no idea of the Gold, silver, diamond. This was her life style, this is what she did. We don't know how many times she had done this before, how many days with no reward, no thanks, but she just kept down what was right in God's eyes.

Now we need to see that the earring of Gold which were giving to her, just the earrings, were half a shekel (that is huge) , she had a nose ring, some serious bling, bling! We are taking about some serious wealth. Now we can't miss the revaluation here, the precious things was hidden in an ugly thing, a menial thing, in a seamanly meaningless routine thing. It was hiding in going beyond what was expected. This apparently meaningless task, became the gateway to an incredible future into the most wealth family on the planet.

When she watered it, rather than curses it. When she didn't say 'that not my job' how many times has God sent ugly situations into our life, when we have said 'that's not my job' and behind it, was an amazing, incredible blessing. If we are just been faithful to do what was required and then some.

- 1) Don't despise small things – faithfulness with small things, bring huge rewards

- 2) Don't wait for the big moments – some of you are just sitting around waiting for your big moment, big moments don't come to those who wait for them, big moments come to those who make the most out of the small moments. Doing routine daily things, bring the big things.
- 3) Help people – Rebekkah didn't pull out a healing hankie, she didn't start quoting scripture, she just said I am going to help you. Now that is a new idea, sometime we need to stop trying to be super spiritual and just help somebody.
- 4) Do your best and then some! The point being, you can't go the second mile, until you have done the first mile really good.
- 5) When God opens the door, walk through it.

When the servant saw that Rebekkah was finished watering the camels, he give the news,, her parents said we are really happy, but we need 10 days to think it over, the servant said, I am not waiting 10 days, then the opportunity comes your way, you need to walk though it. When God opens the door, we might not have what it takes, but he will go through the door with us. There are so many times in our lives, were we think that would be better if someone else would be here now, but I have learn, that when God opens the door, he always enables.