February 16, 2025
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
Sermon Notes
Genesis Behind the Curtain: The Story of Isaac
S4E4 - Isaac and Rebekah
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

Genesis 24:1-4 and 10-14
1 Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. **2** And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh, **3** that I may make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell, **4** but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

Vs. 10-14
10 Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, taking all sorts of choice gifts from his master; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia to the city of Nahor. **11** And he made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at the time of evening, the time when women go out to draw water. **12** And he said, "O LORD, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show **steadfast love** to my master Abraham. **13** Behold, I am standing by the spring of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. **14** Let the young woman to whom I shall say, 'Please let down your jar that I may drink,' and who shall say, 'Drink, and I will water your camels'—let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I shall know that you have shown **steadfast love** to my master."

Main Point: God Blesses Faithfulness: Vs. 1 Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.

- **Matthew 25:21 (ESV)**: "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and **faithful <u>servant.</u>** You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'"

Faithful people tend to have a servant's heart.

A FAITHFUL TRIFECTA: Abraham, Abraham's servant and Rebekah.

1. **Abraham:**
    a. Abraham insists that his servant **not take a wife for Isaac from the Canaanites. Vs. 3** swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell

b. Abraham insists that his servant **not take his son back to his former land.** Genesis 24:6*"Abraham said to him, 'See to it that you do not take my son back there.'"*

"Firmly rooted in the land of promise, Abraham refused to return to a land he had left behind."

2. **Abraham's Servant:**
    a. The servant is likely Eliezer of Damascus (Genesis 15:2), who had previously been Abraham's heir before Isaac was born.
    b. **The Concept of Hesed (Steadfast Love)** And he said, "O LORD, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show **steadfast love** to my master Abraham.
        i. The servant prays that God will show **"steadfast love" (Hebrew: חֶסֶד, *ḥesed*)** to Abraham (v.12, 14). *Hesed* is a covenantal term meaning **faithful love, mercy, and kindness**—one of the key attributes of God's relationship with His people.
        ii. **Rebekah:** Abraham's servant prays for a woman with a servant's heart. **VS. 14** Let the young woman to whom I shall say, 'Please let down your jar that I may drink,' and who shall say, 'Drink, and I will water your camels'—let her be the one whom you have appointed for your **servant** Isaac.

Practical Takeaways:

1. Know the boundary lines between what is your forsaken land and what is your promised land.
2. Embrace the journey, even when you can't see the destination.

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. How does Abraham's trust in God's faithfulness challenge the way you make big life decisions?
2. Pastor Adam spoke about Abraham's unwillingness to go back to his forsaken land. How do we identify our forsaken land and keep from going back?
3. The servant prayed specifically for God's guidance. How can we develop a habit of seeking God's direction in our daily lives?
4. Rebekah showed a servant's heart through her actions. What are some practical ways we can demonstrate faithfulness through serving others?
5. God blesses faithfulness. Where have you seen God's faithfulness in your life, and how does that encourage you to remain faithful?