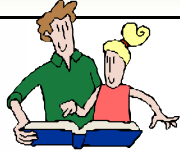


“After God’s Own Heart”

By Mrs. Sojourner

Reading Psalm 18 gives us a view of David’s relationship with his (and our) Heavenly Father.



Notes:

David starts out declaring his love for God:

¹ I love you, O LORD, my strength. Psalm 18:1 (NIV)

He then describes God, or how he sees God: ² The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. Psalm 18:2 (NIV)

David then moves into testifying what God has done for him: ⁶ In my distress I called to the LORD; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears... ¹⁶ He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters. ¹⁷ He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me. ¹⁸ They confronted me in the day of my disaster, but the LORD was my support. ¹⁹ He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me. Psalm 18:6,16-19 (NIV)

Scripture describes King David as a man after God’s

own heart. What do we see this man after God’s own heart doing? We see that he not only has a relationship with his Heavenly Father, but that he pursues God and works at his relationship with God. David relies on God for both protection and direction. David also spends time praising and worshipping God.

Yes David did some terrible things (i.e. having Uriah the Hittite murdered and committing adultery), but we must remember that David repented and again pursued God whole-heartedly.

Our Heavenly Father desires our love and affection as much as he did David’s. Psalm 18 can help us and inspire us to draw near to Father God and love him in the manner of David, the man after God’s heart.

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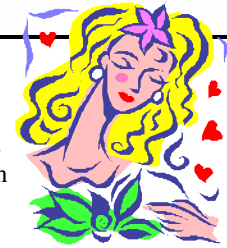
“Gifts For A Bride”

(Teaching Sketch)

Genesis 24:1-23



isaac and



Rebekah are often listed as the main characters in the Scripture we are focused on for this message. We are going to look a bit deeper into these verses to see what else might be found there.

Notes:
[a]

The servant is a type of the Holy Spirit.

There was no provision for failure or settling for less than the father wanted.

The servant was to bring back a bride from whom the legacy of the father of many nations promise would be fulfilled. There was to be no looking back!

The Servant

Abraham here can be seen as a type of God, The Father. He summons his chief or oldest servant to give him a task:

² He said to the chief servant in his household, the one in charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh. ³ I want you to swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living, ⁴ but will go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac." Genesis 24:2-4

⁷ "The LORD, the God of heaven, who brought me out of my father's household and my native land and who spoke to me and promised me on oath, saying, "To your offspring I will give this land"-he will send his angel before you so that you can get a wife for my son from there. ⁸ If the woman is unwilling to come back with you, then you will be released from this oath of mine. Only do not take my son back there." Genesis 24:7-8

Scripture:

Genesis 24:1-23^(NIV)

¹ Abraham was now old and well advanced in years, and the LORD had blessed him in every way. ² He said to the chief^[a] servant in his household, the one in charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh. ³ I want you to swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living, ⁴ but will go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac."

⁵ The servant asked him, "What if the woman is unwilling to come back with me to this land? Shall I then take your son back to the country you came from?"

⁶ "Make sure that you do not take my son back there," Abraham said. ⁷ "The LORD, the God of heaven, who brought me out of my father's household and my native land and who spoke to me and promised me on oath, saying, 'To your offspring^[b] I will give this land'-he will send his angel before you so that you can get a wife for my son from there. ⁸ If the woman is unwilling to come back with you, then you will be released from this oath of mine. Only do not take my son back there." ⁹ So the servant put his hand under the thigh of his master Abraham and swore an oath to him concerning this matter.

¹⁰ Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and left, taking with him all kinds of good things from his master. He set out for Aram-Naharaim^[c] and made his way to the town of Nahor. ¹¹ He had the camels kneel down near the well outside the town; it was toward evening, the time the women go out to draw water. ¹² Then he prayed, "O LORD, God of my master Abraham, give me success today, and show kindness to my

[a]
Or *old-est*

[b]
Or *seed*

[c]
That is, Northwest Mesopotamia

[d]
That is, about 1/5 ounce (about 5.5 grams)

[e]
That is, about 4 ounces (about 110 grams)

master Abraham. ¹³ See, I am standing beside this spring, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. ¹⁴ May it be that when I say to a girl, 'Please let down your jar that I may have a drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels too'-let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master."

¹⁵ Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah, who was the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor. ¹⁶ The girl was very beautiful, a virgin; no man had ever lain with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jar and came up again.

¹⁷ The servant hurried to meet her and said, "Please give me a little water from your jar."

¹⁸ "Drink, my lord," she said, and quickly lowered the jar to her hands and gave him a drink.

¹⁹ After she had given him a drink, she said, "I'll draw water for your camels too, until they have finished drinking." ²⁰ So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough, ran back to the well to draw more water, and drew enough for all his camels. ²¹ Without saying a word, the man watched her closely to learn whether or not the LORD had made his journey successful.

²² When the camels had finished drinking, the man took out a gold nose ring weighing a beka^[d] and two gold bracelets weighing ten shekels. ^[e] ²³ Then he asked, "Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?"

"Gifts For A Bride"

(Teaching Sketch)

Genesis 24:1-23

The Gifts

The servant took much wealth of the father with him as gifts for the bride.

¹⁰ Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and left, taking with him all kinds of good things from his master. Genesis 24:10a

It is important to note the will of the servant as shown in his prayer, "Give me success today and show kindness to my master. Abraham."

The Response

Just as the faithful servant had asked to happen, the girl fulfilled his desire for a worthy response:

¹⁸ "Drink, my lord," she said, and quickly lowered the jar to her hands and gave him a drink. ¹⁹ After she had given him a drink, she said, "I'll draw water for your camels too, until they have finished drinking." Genesis 24:18-19

The Victory

The faithfulness of the father, the servant, and the bride brought victory as the son was able to complete his function. All these elements working together brought Victory!

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

