

God's Calling Requirements

Part 4

We will study in this message a life of a righteous man who served honestly and responded to God's call effectively. This God's servant was the servant of Abraham. **"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 servant in his household, the one in charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh." (Genesis 24:1-2)** Here we can observe the following requirements that this servant accomplished to fulfill his calling:

1- Abiding with the instructions: Abraham entrusted his servant with a great task and he did the task wholeheartedly and without compromising. Abraham in his old age was facing the task of finding a wife to his son Isaac. Abraham would not be able to go and even Isaac is not allowed to go on that mission therefore God called that man to do that particular task. It was not possible to take for Isaac any woman from the Canaanites around them, so Abraham told to his servant: **"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," (Genesis 24:1-3)** That was the instruction that this servant committed himself to do for God and for his teacher Abraham who instructed him with the word of God. To serve God you need to abide with the instruction that you are receiving. You are an important person for God to do Him certain task and once you commit yourself to do a certain task then you need to abide with the given instruction.

2- Verify any doubt to grasp the spiritual principle behind the instruction: The Lord had put in the heart of Abraham that if there will be a woman from his old family who is willing to come out from that tradition and religion and join them in their new life for God then she will be the right woman for Isaac. So he instructed his servant with the following: **"⁴ but will go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac." (Genesis 24:4)** Then 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?" (Genesis 24:5)** The servant knew that it will be hard for a woman to leave her family and move to live far away from them. That is why he was verifying with Abraham about all the possibilities, and that what made Abraham affirming to him the following, **"⁶ Make sure that you do not take my son back there," Abraham said." (Genesis 24:6)** The point of Abraham that his son Isaac should not go back to the old religion and tradition because when God had called Abraham He told him, **"Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you." (Genesis 12:1)** So Abraham now was working to ensure that his son Isaac would not go back to what he was before God called him. This faithful servant was not taking the instruction blindly but with deep understanding. The instruction that Abraham put on his servant is difficult but the principle behind was noble and godly one, **'Not to take Isaac back from where God had taken out Abraham.'** Many people when God call them or when they receive instruction they will not verify the principle behind the instruction. When the principle is not grasped the people instead of serving with joy and faith they will go on with heavy heart, frustration and grumbling. That servant did not go to the right or to the left but he verified it directly with Abraham. When you receive instruction and you are not convinced or happy with at once verify it with the person who gave it to you and find out the bottom line spiritual principle, to grasp, to obey and to put on action.

3- Take the call of God and obey Him with faith: In addition to the above instructions, Abraham imparted the message of faith to his servant as he told him, **"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."(Genesis 24:7)** And he made it also clear to him that in no way to compromise and bring his son back 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 24:8)** When you grasp the calling of God, serve Him with faith, for He is there to back you up and you do not need to compromise with anyone.

4- Do not be afraid to commit yourself: The servant complied with God's call and committed himself to do the task: **"⁹ So the servant put his hand under the thigh of his master Abraham and swore an oath to him concerning this matter.**

5- Be diligent in your service: **"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 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." (Genesis 24:9-11)** He moved with faith in God, and in His heart he wanted to achieve the task faithfully and swiftly to God and to his master Abraham. Do not linger or hang on when God is calling you. But be quick to put on the ground the mission of God.

6- Be prayerful in applying the instruction given to you: Therefore when he reached there, **"¹² Then he prayed, "O LORD, God of my master Abraham, give me success today, and show kindness to my 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." (Genesis 24:12-15)** So before he finished praying God answered his prayer because his heart was clean and was set to serve God wholeheartedly. He knew that it is not God's will to bring Isaac back to the old tradition, so the message of God would be truthfully conveyed to the next generation. In the mission field God will answer your prayer as long as you keep faith on Him, living a righteous life and abiding with the principle of God's call. The prayer of a righteous man avails much. This servant he did not pray much but he obeyed much and that is why his prayer was answered. Therefore obey much then you will find yourselves know how to pray, as well as you will find yourself in the field and the harvest of answered prayers.

7- Act as a watchman and with discretion to be sure of God's choice and how he is answering your prayer: **"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." (Genesis 24:16-21)** God truly answered that servant prayer and confirmed them as he watched closely how God was moving to help him to achieve the mission entrusted to him. As your heart is fully committed to serve God and to do His will, then the Lord will help you and uphold you with His grace to do His will. God confirmed to the servant the instructions that he received from his Master Abraham and the things went very smooth after that. **"²² When the camels had finished drinking, the man took out a gold nose ring weighing a beka and two gold bracelets weighing ten shekels. 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?" ²⁴ She answered him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son that Milcah bore to Nahor." ²⁵ And she added, "We have plenty of straw and fodder, as well as room for you to spend the night." (Genesis 24:22-25)** He praised and thanked the Lord for that **"²⁶ Then the man bowed down and worshiped the LORD, ²⁷ saying, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not abandoned his kindness and faithfulness to my master. As for me, the LORD has led me on the journey to the house of my master's relatives. ²⁸ The girl ran and told her mother's household about these things. ²⁹ Now Rebekah had a brother named Laban, and he hurried out to the man at the spring. ³⁰ As soon as he had seen the nose ring, and the bracelets on his sister's arms, and had heard Rebekah tell what the man said to her, he went out to the man and found him standing by the camels near the spring. ³¹ "Come, you who are blessed by the LORD," he said. "Why are you standing out here? I have prepared the house and a place for the camels." ³² So the man went to the house, and the camels were unloaded. Straw and fodder were brought for the camels, and water for him and his men to wash their feet." (Genesis 24:26-32)** Truly the feet of the righteous man is ordained

by the Lord as God's word said ⁴²³ *The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.* (Psalm 37:23) Things will fall in place and God will glorify in your service and ministry as you delight to serve with wholeheartedly. Rejoice as you watch that exactly everything is arranged for you as had happened with that faithful servant.

8- Do the mission of God first and do not let food delay you: ⁴³³ *Then food was set before him, but he said, "I will not eat until I have told you what I have to say." "Then tell us," Laban said.* (Genesis 24:33) The servant was so faithful to his master and to God, that even after long journey he would not eat in their house unless he will tell them why he came and unless they will agree with him and send the girl with him. So he told them the whole story: ⁴³⁴ *So he said, "I am Abraham's servant.* ³⁵ *The LORD has blessed my master abundantly, and he has become wealthy. He has given him sheep and cattle, silver and gold, menservants and maidservants, and camels and donkeys.* ³⁶ *My master's wife Sarah has borne him a son in her old age, and he has given him everything he owns.* ³⁷ *And my master made me swear an oath, and said, 'You must not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live,* ³⁸ *but go to my father's family and to my own clan, and get a wife for my son.'* ³⁹ *"Then I asked my master, 'What if the woman will not come back with me?'"* ⁴⁰ *"He replied, 'The LORD, before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you and make your journey a success, so that you can get a wife for my son from my own clan and from my father's family.'* ⁴¹ *Then, when you go to my clan, you will be released from my oath even if they refuse to give her to you--you will be released from my oath.'* ⁴² *"When I came to the spring today, I said, 'O LORD, God of my master Abraham, if you will, please grant success to the journey on which I have come.'* ⁴³ *See, I am standing beside this spring; if a maiden comes out to draw water and I say to her, 'Please let me drink a little water from your jar,'* ⁴⁴ *and if she says to me, 'Drink, and I'll draw water for your camels too,' let her be the one the LORD has chosen for my master's son.'* ⁴⁵ *"Before I finished praying in my heart, Rebekah came out, with her jar on her shoulder. She went down to the spring and drew water, and I said to her, 'Please give me a drink.'* 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.* ⁴⁷ *"I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?'"* *"She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel son of Nahor, whom Milcah bore to him.'* *"Then I put the ring in her nose and the bracelets on her arms,* ⁴⁸ *and I bowed down and worshiped the LORD. I praised the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me on the right road to get the granddaughter of my master's brother for his son.* ⁴⁹ *Now if you will show kindness and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so I may know which way to turn."* (Genesis 24:34-49) He told them everything and waited for their decision. There is no way that Isaac will go back, but Rebekah to come out and to follow the way of God that Abraham and Isaac are following; if they will agree he will eat, if not then he will go back.

9- Do not be afraid of people: The family of Rebekah agree to do God's will, ⁵⁰ *Laban and Bethuel answered, "This is from the LORD; we can say nothing to you one way or the other."* ⁵¹ *Here is Rebekah; take her and go, and let her become the wife of your master's son, as the LORD has directed."* (Genesis 24:50-51) As you obey God He will be the one to bend the people before you and you do not need to be afraid and compromise.

10- Give the credit to God: ⁴⁵² *When Abraham's servant heard what they said, he bowed down to the ground before the LORD.* ⁵³ *Then the servant brought out gold and silver jewelry and articles of clothing and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave costly gifts to her brother and to her mother.* ⁵⁴ *Then he and the men who were with him ate and drank and spent the night there."* (Genesis 24:52-54) Never forget to praise God and give Him all glory as he answers your prayer.

11- Be firm and never compromise with man: *"When they got up the next morning, he said, "Send me on my way to my master."* ⁵⁵ *But her brother and her mother replied, "Let the girl remain with us ten days or so; then you may go."* ⁵⁶ *But he said to them, "Do not detain me, now that the LORD has granted success to my journey. Send me on my way so I may go to my master."* ⁵⁷ *Then they said, "Let's call the girl and ask her about it."* ⁵⁸ *So they called Rebekah and asked her, "Will you go with this man?"* *"I will go," she said."* (Genesis 24:55-58) The family of Rebekah after they agreed they wanted to delay the servant ten days more and most likely what they will do in these ten days the traditional and the

ritual things that they used to practice and may be they will ask from him money or even they may change their minds. But the servant was firm with them and his mind was clear; he challenged them that he is going back and he will not delay and forced them to ask the girl if she is willing to go with him then he will take her. Truly they were put in their right place and comply with God's will. ⁵⁹ *So they sent their sister Rebekah on her way, along with her nurse and Abraham's servant and his men.* ⁶⁰ *And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "Our sister, may you increase to thousands upon thousands; may your offspring possess the gates of their enemies."* ⁶¹ *Then Rebekah and her maids got ready and mounted their camels and went back with the man. So the servant took Rebekah and left."* (Genesis 24:59-61) The servant was so faithful to the mission of God. He was not a worldly man. Someone else might stay and enjoy food and celebration or have a tour around in the region and see the nature. Worldliness will not help us in our walk with God but it makes our life and our mission work more difficult.

12- Report everything honestly: ⁴⁶² *Now Isaac had come from Beer Lahai Roi, for he was living in the Negev.* ⁶³ *He went out to the field one evening to meditate, and as he looked up, he saw camels approaching.* ⁶⁴ *Rebekah also looked up and saw Isaac. She got down from her camel.* ⁶⁵ *and asked the servant, "Who is that man in the field coming to meet us?"* *"He is my master," the servant answered. So she took her veil and covered herself.* ⁶⁶ *Then the servant told Isaac all he had done."* (Genesis 24:62-66) The faithful servant reported the whole story of how God led him and how God answered his prayer and how He gave him the wisdom to speak and how finally Rebekah came out from that tradition and faith.

13- Rejoice that others are blessed with your ministry: Then, ⁴⁶⁷ *Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he married Rebekah. So she became his wife, and he loved her; and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death."* (Genesis 24:67) God will reward you for His service to Him as you are serving His faithful people and bringing the truth for the next generation.

My Dear and Beloved: Take head of the message, follow the above principles and be faithful to God and to the instructions that you received. As that servant obeyed the instruction of Abraham and secured a godly wife for Isaac to have godly children, and for the truth of God's word to pass to the next generation, you also do the same; stand firm, be on your guard and not compromise in order that the truth and the message of God will pass faithfully to the next generation as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God thank you for your clear message to me. I come before you in the name of Jesus, I commit myself to stand firm in doing the mission and the task that you entrust to me. Lord I have a clear mind and I will not compromise. I know very well that you had called me; I will serve you faithfully to bring your message and the truth of your word to the next generation. Give me the strength and the good health to do that, protect me and provide for me, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.*

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