

## Watchman Part 16

### *(The Watchman Should Be Sure of God's Choice For Marriage)*

We will compare in this message two examples of two men, of how they chose a partner in marriage. One was a good and successful watchman for this purpose but the other person did not do well and was not able to perform God's will in pertain to this matter.

**I-** The first example is the servant of Abraham whom Abraham commissioned to find and bring the right partner for Isaac. We will read his account here: **"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. 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 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 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 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.'" (Genesis 24:1-21)**

Abraham truly put a clear instructions to his servant about finding the woman: **A-** Not from the Canaanites and that entail not a woman who will pull Isaac into worldly practices and false religion. **B-** Back from his country and relative and that entail the woman should leave her old religion and cultural practices. **C-** Never to bring Isaac back to his previous country;

and that entail that God's plan for Isaac to be continued and consolidated. **D-** To be God's choice and provision as Abraham assured his servant with this faith statement **"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)

The servant went with such instructions and truly abides himself with them. When he came to seek a wife for his master, **First**, he did not go to the playhouse or the park, and pray that he might meet one there, but to the well of water, expecting to find one there well employed. **Second**, when he reached the place did not look or search for a kind of girls that man would desire, like young, beautiful or having that or this character. **Third**, instead the servant prayed to the Lord and sought the help and the favour of God for that purpose. He prayed the following **"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.'" (Genesis 24:12-14)** He did not ask God to show beautiful or young girl, but in what he prayed, **"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."** **Fourth**, the servant of Abraham was looking to girl who is hard working (not a lazy spoiled girl), generous (not a stingy), hospitable (not a woman without discretion), a helper (not a burden), wise woman (not a dull person) to be a suitable wife for Isaac. That what we can learn here, when there is a person who is prepared and ready for marriage, we should be in the right mind and prayerfully would search for a woman who is God's servant and who would help the man in his life and mission unto the Lord.

The servant prayed that in his heart and God answered his prayers because it was in accordance to God's will and brought to him **Rebekah**, and **"Without saying a word, the man watched her closely to learn whether or not the LORD had made his journey successful."** (Genesis 24:21) The servant was a faithful watchman and wanted to be sure that the Lord answered his prayer and enabled him to find a suitable wife for Isaac.

In the same way the Lord would hear our prayers as we abide in His will and plan and will enable us and lead us to find His choice to those men among us who are prepared and mature for marriage.

**2-** The second example is Jacob whom his father Isaac sent him to find a wife from the relative of his mother. Already Isaac and Rebekah they were disgusted because Esau married Hittites women **"46 Then Rebekah said to Isaac, 'I'm disgusted with living because of these Hittite women. If Jacob takes a wife from among the women of this land, from Hittite women like these, my life will not be worth living.'" (Genesis 27:46)** **"1 So Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him and commanded him: 'Do not marry a Canaanite woman. 2 Go at once to Paddan Aram, to the house of your mother's father Bethuel. Take a wife for yourself there, from among the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother. 3 May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and increase your numbers until you become a community of peoples. 4 May he give you and your descendants the blessing given to Abraham, so that you may take possession of the land where you now live as an alien, the land God gave to Abraham.'" (Genesis 28:1-4)** Isaac truly sent Jacob with clear instructions as Abraham sent his servant and with expectation that God will do to Jacob as God did to him in leading him to marry Rebekah.

Jacob was also observant as we can read here: *"1 Then Jacob continued on his journey and came to the land of the eastern peoples. 2 There he saw a well in the field, with three flocks of sheep lying near it because the flocks were watered from that well. The stone over the mouth of the well was large. 3 When all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would roll the stone away from the well's mouth and water the sheep. Then they would return the stone to its place over the mouth of the well. 4 Jacob asked the shepherds, "My brothers, where are you from?" "We're from Haran," they replied. 5 He said to them, "Do you know Laban, Nahor's grandson?" "Yes, we know him," they answered. 6 Then Jacob asked them, "Is he well?" "Yes, he is," they said, "and here comes his daughter Rachel with the sheep." 7 "Look," he said, "the sun is still high; it is not time for the flocks to be gathered. Water the sheep and take them back to pasture." 8 "We can't," they replied, "until all the flocks are gathered and the stone has been rolled away from the mouth of the well. Then we will water the sheep." 9 While he was still talking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess. 10 When Jacob saw Rachel daughter of Laban, his mother's brother, and Laban's sheep, he went over and rolled the stone away from the mouth of the well and watered his uncle's sheep. 11 Then Jacob kissed Rachel and began to weep aloud. 12 He had told Rachel that he was a relative of her father and a son of Rebekah. So she ran and told her father. 13 As soon as Laban heard the news about Jacob, his sister's son, he hurried to meet him. He embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his home, and there Jacob told him all these things." (Genesis 29:1-13)* Jacob he saw the well of water in the field and he saw as well Rachel, *"10 When Jacob saw Rachel daughter of Laban, his mother's brother, and Laban's sheep, he went over and rolled the stone away from the mouth of the well and watered his uncle's sheep." (Genesis 29:10)* But was Jacob a good watchman to chose his wife as the servant of Abraham chose Rebekah to Isaac? Let us read further to know the answer.

*"14 Then Laban said to him, "You are my own flesh and blood." After Jacob had stayed with him for a whole month, 15 Laban said to him, "Just because you are a relative of mine, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be." 16 Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. 17 Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel was lovely in form, and beautiful. 18 Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, "I'll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel." (Genesis 29:14-18)* Jacob made his choice to work hard for seven years and earn to marry Rachel, **First**, he did it without prayer or seeking God's will or choice. **Second**, exclusively his decision was based on the external beauty of Rachel. **Third**, he should not choose the woman before he is prepared and ready for marriage. Many people now a day they made wrong choices for marriage based on emotions, feelings, and worldly desires, seeking girls beauties and without seeking God's will or plan. *Genesis 29:20* shows clearly the main reason of Jacob choice, *"20 So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her."*

Laban knew very well that he cannot give Rachel to Jacob for marriage. He should face him with the truth but he did not do it because he did not want to lose Jacob's service. Many pastors and church leaders they behave like Laban they would agree about marriages not in accord to God's will and plan just because they would not want to lose members or workers in the church.

Let us read what happened further *"19 Laban said, "It's better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me." 20 So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her. 21 Then Jacob said to*

*Laban, "Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to lie with her." 22 So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast. 23 But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and gave her to Jacob, and Jacob lay with her. 24 And Laban gave his servant girl Zilpah to his daughter as her maidservant. 25 When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived me?" 26 Laban replied, "It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. 27 Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work." 28 And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. 29 Laban gave his servant girl Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as her maidservant. 30 Jacob lay with Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah. And he worked for Laban another seven years." (Genesis 29:19-30)* Jacob was misled and forced for polygamy in marrying another wife just because Laban was greedy for Jacob's service and he took advantage of Jacob emotions and feelings. But finally we know that Rachel died and Jacob left with Leah, God's choice for him.

**My Dear and Beloved:** God call you and His church today to be a good and faithful watchman like the servant of Abraham to allow and ordain marriages that are ordained of God, as you agree to pray.

**My Prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that makes things clear to me in regard to your choice and will for marriages. Lord I commit my life to abide with your plan and will in regard to marriages. Lord gives me courage and supports me to do that. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

# Jesus christ



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