

Title: Twins? You must be Kidding!

Text: Genesis ^{24:58-} 25:19-34

Mollen Day

Would you take your Bibles, please, and turn to Genesis chapter 24. Genesis chapter 24 and we will begin reading at Vs 58. Our subject this morning deals with Rebekah who becomes the wife of Isaac and her two children: Esau and Jacob....A ~~fantastic~~ fascinating story about a family that really blows it...I mean they are so far out in left field when it comes to knowing how to raise ~~children~~ children that it becomes sort of funny...So this is the story of Isaac and Rebekah and their two sons: Esau and Jacob.

(Read Genesis 25:20-34)

Shall we pray together

The wife of Isaac was the result of a little trip a servant took to Paddan-aram. He went there to visit Abraham's brother. Abraham had a brother who was very rich and had a number of very lovely daughters. So, Abraham knowing this sent his servant to find a wife for his son Isaac.

Now, if you know the story you will remember that the servant was told to go to a certain well and the first woman who came to that well and offered him a drink was the woman God had selected to be the wife of Isaac. And there is something about this woman Rebekah which makes this one of the great love stories of the Bible.

Last week we talked about the great need of spiritual men within the family. This week I want to consider what makes a ^{Family} man great: The love and devotion of a spiritual wife..... *What is it that makes a woman deep in the faith?*

(2B) Now, let's come to the life of Rebekah. She is a wonderful helper. A wonderful woman. And there are some outstanding circumstances in the passage that I want to share with you about Rebekah. Three things.

(1C) Number one, was her obedience to the Lord. I doubt seriously that there has ever been a woman so willing to obey the Lord. Let me explain.

Come to chapter 24 of Genesis and verse 58....Chapter 24:58...

It says, "they called Rebekah and said to her.".....Now, who is the "THEY"

Here Parents

Let me remind you of the story. Abraham sends his servant all the way up to Pad-Dan-orum. Which is several hundred miles. And this servant was told that the first woman who comes to the well and offers you a drink; and, then also, gives a drink to all your animals, that is the one who is to be Isaac's wife.

Now, watch this carefully, The servant comes to the well. It has been a long journey. And he doesn't know anybody at the well. And Rebekah is there at the well. Now, other ladies come to the well. But Rebekah is there at the well. And she offers ^{them} him a drink and says, "let me give you a drink for the animals, also."

Now, you can imagine what that servant said..."THAT IS THE ONE.... So, they go home and they have a little family council. Now, if you would like to read about that just read chapter 24. The whole chapter ^{deals} ~~deals~~ with this subject.

So, they hold a little family council and this servant goes over the whole story. He has jewels and gifts to win this girl. And they finally decide...."Look, we appreciate all this. But, you know she is our little daughter. We love her very much. How, about just a few days. O.K."

No, he says, I can't do that. I was told to bring this girl back. She has to ^{go} ~~go~~ with me right now. That is the will of God."

" Well, I don't know.....So, when we come to Vs 58..."they called to Rebekah and said 'will you go with this man?'" "And she said, Well,,,give me a couple of days to think about it"

(3) (4)

Is that what it says?.....Oh, no....She said, "I will go".....
You talk about a Lady that demonstrates obedience to the Lord. A lady
that is in tune with God's Will. Imagine the test that was given to her.
To go with a man she had never ^{meet} seen....hundreds of miles away...to marry
a man that he says is O.K. and good looking.....What a story....

But, she believed it. She knew it was the will of God. And she
said "I will go."

Now let me just share some things with you about ^{her} that obedience.

And what it really means to be obedient

(1D) I learn, first of all, that ~~it~~ ^{she} was willing. ~~It~~ ^{She} was willing. No one
forced this decision upon her. Do you want to go?..."Yes, I will go"....

~~Please listen - God doesn't force His Will on anyone~~

Some of us have to be forced into obedience....Sometimes the Lord
has to bring discipline and heart-ack and suffering to make us be what he
wants us to be.

Wouldn't it be wonderful the very first time God said something...

"YES, I will do it".....We read in his Word, We know his will....I will go....
I know it is his will and I am ready to go....IT WAS WILLING OBEDIENCE...

(2D) The second, thing, I learn is that ^{her} the obedience was enthusiastic.

= Now, some of us aren't very enthusiastic. We say, O.K. if you want,
I guess I will do it. You know....If you can't get anyone else, I will do
it...Last ditchI will do it. But, we are not enthusiastic.

How, do I know this about Rebekah?...Look at verse 64..."And Rebekah
lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from the camel."

Now, the English makes this out to be sort-off a graceful dismounting
from the camel.....But, in the Hebrew it says...She jump off the camel and
ran to him. Listen, this woman knew....THAT IS THE ONE....And she was
ready to go...Let me at him...I LIKE THAT....

You know, ^{a lot of} ~~most~~ christians are so hestiating ⁱⁿ ~~our~~ ^{this} obedience to Chris
Talk about enthusaism. She knew it was the will of God. And she was
ready to do his will....

(3D) The third thing I notice is that this woman was trusting.

Boy, you talk about trusting....Her whole future was at stake. And I read that this woman, with no question ask, went and she believed the promises of God. A trusting woman..... *obedience always involves Trust*

(2C) The second thing I notice about Rebekah is her obligation to her husband.

Down in Vs 67 we find a beautiful thing. It says that Isaac loved her and it says that Isaac was comforted after his mothers" death.

He was comforted. This woman met the need in Isaac's life. He was lonely. The Bible says that God designed woman to be a help mate for the husband. And she met that need in his life. And just a simple statement: Isaac was comforted. ~~Man was comforted by God to meet her needs~~ *needs -*

(3C) The third thing I notice is in Vs 60 The opportunity for blessing was fantastic in Rebekah's life, if she would obey the Lord.

It says, Vs 60, "they blessed Rebekah and said to her, 'May you, our sister, become thousands of ten thousands." Which she is by the way... "and may your descendants possess the gate of those who hate them."

Tremendous opportunity..... *For Blessing - There are tremendous opportunities for God to Bless us if we are obedient*

(3B) Then, we come to Issa and Jacob.

Turn
Now, over in chapter 25:24 we pick up the story. Now, Rebekah is pregnant and she knows something is going on in her womb. And she went to the Lord, and said: "I want to know what is happening. What is this struggle?"

Sometimes, Ladies knew they are going to have twin's and sometimes they don't. Now, Rebekah is going to have twins and these two started off fighting in the womb....Did you know they did that the rest of their lives?....

There she is.....She is about ready to give birth to twins and she wants to know what is happening inside of her....May there is a fight. They are just wearing her out....

Now, some of you mothers know what I am trying to describe.....I am having trouble with words....But you know.....

Keep your eyes on Jesus - He will love me you will love me

And so she goes to the Lord. "Lord, what is going on in my womb? And God answers...^uThere are two nations in your womb...^uOH...^uThat is nice, ^{really} That is all I wanted to know.....

(10) So, the first thing I want ^{you} ~~to~~ to know concerns the conception of these two boys. ① It was an answer to prayer. No question about it. This man prayed and God answered. That was a wonderful thing. It was also assurance both to Isaac and Rebekah that God's plan was going to be fulfilled. He knew that he had to have a son in order for the Messiah to continue in the line. ② But then the conflict. Look at it...Vs 25....

Esau is born and he is red and hairy...Vs 25 and they call his name Esau...And then his twin brother is born; ~~and this to me is kind of fastinating.~~ ^{and Jacob is born - Jacob means supplanter}

Remember, Rebekah has had a struggle going on in her womb; and now ~~when Esau's~~ ^{Jacob's} ~~brother is~~ ~~born~~ born with his hand holding on to ^{Esau's} ~~his~~ heel. And that is something that shouldn't be passed over lightly. For did you know that is what Jacob did the rest of his life?.....

The rest of his life.....Jacob the old ^{country club rebel} supplanter....He is so much a representatave of Carnal Christianity...You couldn't find a better one. He was always trying to ~~to~~ solve God's problems. He was trying to get everthing strighten out, you see. And that hand holding on to the heal of Esua became a sign of what was going to happen all the way through their life.

(20) And Vs 27 says the boys grew. Let's look at the character of these two boys. Esua was a skillful hunter. Much like Nemrod. A man of the field. The idea here is restlessness. He is a plainsman.

Then it says that Jacob was a quite man dwelling in tents. Not, just dwelling in tents but quite in contrast to Esua who was wild. So, you have two people in direct conflict.

But the conflict is deeper than just chacter. The conflict, according to Vs 28 was also in the parants. It says that Isaac loved Esau because he had taste for game." ^{Boy, that is tremendous parental love, isn't it?}

He got the deer meat so he like ~~J~~Esau. He loved him. He showed special favor towards Esau. So, what did Rebekah do?...Just what any normal woman would do...O.K. if that is the way you are going to act, I love Jacob. He was around the house. So it was mother's boy and Dad's boy. And there they were in constant conflict. No Different Day -

Well, I am sure you know what happened. Esau comes in from the ~~field~~ field. He is worn out. He is absolutely famished. And Jacob is cooking stew...And there was one thing I said to myself when I read this story: "he must have been the greatest cook of all times....."

Can you imagine coming in from the field and some fellow saying, "How about some of my stew?"....And then saying, "Man, I will give anything for it.".....It shows you something is wrong in Esau's life....

So, he says I really want this. And so you know what Jacob does? He says, "I will give you a plate of my stew for some of your deer meat."

Oh, No...he doesn't say that.....Jacob grabbing the heel again, says to Esau, "Listen, I will tell you what I will do. I will give you some of my stew, if you will sell me your birth right?"

The birthright contain all the spiritual inheritance, all the blessing that God had for him. It contain everything for his future....And Jacob, the subplanter, said, "Listen, just sell me your birthright and I will give you some stew."

You know, Jacob is just as bad as Esau/? Just as bad...So, as you know, Esau sold his birthright. Notice what he said in Vs 32 in trying to justify his sin: "Behold, I am about to die; so of what use then is the birthright to me?"

In a moment of weakness for one little physical desire, he was willing to sell all of his spiritual blessings.

And we are not much different. We do the same thing. We compromise all the time like that.....We are willing to sell everything. The name of Christ, our testimony, for one little moment of a physical desire.

~~And~~

And so they made the deal. And old Jacob. Boy he is some character. He wouldn't just say, "O.K. let's do it." He said to him in Vs 33 "swear to me this day."....Hay, I said I will sell it to you....."No, swear....." And ~~she~~^{So} he swore.....Sealing the contract that was made over one little plate of stew.....

What a tragedy. And Esau suffered the consequences. Because we learn in Hebrews 12 that Esau, himself, not only despised his birthright ~~th~~ but he found no place for repentence even though he sought it with tears. Here is a man who lost everything that he knew he had. And all of his life he was in tears and broken hearted; but he couldn't find a place for repentence...Sorry for his actions. But it never changed him.

Like many of us. Sorry for what happens to us. Sorry for the consequence we might experience. But we never change and we refuse to do anything about it. And that is the tragedy of it all.

Now, let me quickly tell you what happened in the future. These two boys who never got along, never saw each other for years. Old Jacob hears that Esau is coming ^{home} with four hundred men. You know what he does?

He has already got his family, now. He has two wives: Leah and Rachel. And he has servants and cattle and he is very wealthy. So, when he hears that Esau is coming with four hundred men, he ~~puts~~ puts every body out in front in line to meet Esau. And then he puts all the little children out in front with gifts. So, when Esau comes charging up with his horses and soldiers, he see these little kids....

And you know where Jacob was?.....He took Rachel the wife he loved and they were way back at the end of the line.....Boy, he was real strong wasn't he....Real spiritual mature.....Able to face all the circumstance.....And there he is at the end of the line.....

GC) Now, to tie this together, I see, here, two factors that are very vital to our christian experience.

(1D) Number one, is that a lot of us will compromise and sell what God really has for us for a little bit of physical enjoyment.....

A little pleasure for the moment. A little bit of food. Not much.
A little home, a little career, a little something. And sell everything.
And God isn't first. Seek yet first the kingdom of God and all these
things shall be added to you. *And We settle for 2nd Best*

(2D) And the second thing, like Jacob we are always trying to solve our
own plans. We are in there subplanting everybody....

Trying to get ahead *ly* Excusing ourselves. Making all kinds of
excuses to God. And God had to deal very hard with Jacob as we are going
to learn later.

Two different kinds of christians.

Then there are people in our midst who are not christians. And
they know it. They have no real assurance that they are going to be in
heaven when they die. And instead of having all that God has for them.
They will substitute a little bit of pleasure in this moment of a life.
And they put off for tomorrow what they should do today...I will think
about Christ tomorrow....Esau found no place for repentence even though
he sought it with tears.

May it be different with us.....Let us pray.....