

## GENESIS 24:12-27 AS DIFFERENT AS LIGHT AND DARK

<sup>12</sup> Then he prayed, "O LORD, God of my master Abraham, give me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham." <sup>13</sup> See, I am standing beside this spring, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. <sup>14</sup> 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."

<sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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.

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

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

<sup>19</sup> After she had given him a drink, she said, "I'll draw water for your camels too, until they have finished drinking." <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> Without saying a word, the man watched her closely to learn whether or not the LORD had made his journey successful.

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

<sup>24</sup> She answered him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son that Milcah bore to Nahor." <sup>25</sup> And she added, "We have plenty of straw and fodder, as well as room for you to spend the night."

<sup>26</sup> Then the man bowed down and worshiped the LORD,

<sup>27</sup> 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."

Why would God take such an interest in the marriage of two people who lived hundreds of miles apart and had never even heard of each other? After all, one would assume that there were plenty of eligible women among the Canaanites. If we go back to the promise God made to Abraham we will find our answer.

God's purpose in calling Abraham and making him into a nation was to expand the kingdom by demonstrating his nature to the world. The power and righteousness of the nation under the authority of God would be as radically different as a light in the dark. And like a light in the woods attracts the inhabitants of the forest, the holy nation of God would attract the inhabitants of the world. In a Godless world, to be truly a nation under God is to be so different as to be noticed. In the beginning, at the time of Abraham, ethnic difference was the first evidence of uniqueness.

Through Jesus Christ, the nations have come to the light and the Church is made up of many ethnic groups. Yet, we are still called to be different, to be a light in the darkness that continues to rule the world. Our witness to the world is to be based on obedience to God as our King and not on what is convenient or easy. Our ways are to be those of God and not those of the world. Sure, the world has many "proven effective" ways of being successful, but as the Church, we are to follow God's way. Worldly ways may result in worldly success, but only God's way will bring divine success.

**Lord, help me not to settle for the answers the world provides, but always seek your guidance. Then give me the strength to follow it so that the world might know you as the author of my success. Amen.**