

“THE SMOOTH PATH OF GOD’S WILL”

GENESIS 24:10-48

Pastor Keith E. Gephart

INTRODUCTION

Read Prov. 3:5-6 and Ps. 37:23.

Read from Gary Friessen, *Decision Making and the Will of God*, pp. 299-300. [My reply].

GOD DIRECTS THOSE INTENT ON DOING HIS WILL (as revealed in Scripture and applied to life).

See John 7:17.

*“When a man **is doing** God’s will as best he knows it, and **is willing to do** His further will even before he knows it, then **he will know** His will **AS SOON AS HE NEEDS IT**” (Morris, 388).*

I. PREPARATIONS MADE (10-11)

II. PRAYERS OFFERED (12-14)

Notice both the humility and the boldness of this prayer.

A. Relationship of loyalty (12)—loyal love, God of my master Abraham

B. Reliance for Success (12)—grant me success.

C. Relevance of the test (13-14)

1. Readiness to serve
2. Cheerfulness and courtesy
3. Unselfishness
4. Hard work and strength (needed for the trip; later for care of household, raising children)
5. Of course, she had to be a relative, and willing to come.
6. Her beauty and purity (16) certainly helped!

Signs (tests) such as this must be based on SCRIPTURE and WISDOM, as well as common sense.

Here we have a marvelous example of specific, believing prayer!

III. PROMPTNESS OF FULFILLMENT (15-25)—“before he had finished speaking”

CF. Is. 65:24—“Before they call, I will answer.” Dan. 9:23—Angel sent at the beginning of Daniel’s prayer.

A. The Coming of Rebekah (15-16)

- The 2nd cousin of Isaac
- Local touch—jar on the shoulder
- Virgin—indicates her age and station; next statement indicates her virginal purity—no man

B. The Confrontation of the Servant (17-18)—ran to meet her

- Notice the tension is increased by the delay to offer water for the camels.

C. The Conditions carried out (19-20)

- How pleased the servant must have been!
- Draw for the camels until they have finished drinking!
- Do you have any idea how much a thirsty camel can drink? [**30 gallons in 13 minutes!**] He had 10 camels! That is more than 300 gallons just for the camels.
- Did he also have any other helpers with him?
- Notice “she went **down** to the spring; I have seen some of these springs and how far down they are!

D. The Caution of the Servant (21-25)

1. Careful observation (21)—in silence, to “know whether the LORD had made his journey successful”
 - How amazed and awed he was as he watched her movements!
 - What a hard working girl! What an awesome God who made such a girl as this and brought her to him so quickly!

- **True faith uses caution to avoid self-deception!**
- 2. Cordial reward (22)—gold ring, ½ shekel; 2 bracelets 10 shekels in gold.
 - Notice, gifts given before he knew who she was
- 3. Considerate questions (23-25)
 - Whose daughter? Bethuel, son of Nahor by Milcah
 - Room for lodging? Plenty of straw and feed, and room to lodge.

IV. PRAISE UPLIFTED (26-27)

- A. For Loyal love and faithfulness of Yahweh, Elohim—He bowed low and worshiped—praise.
 - Focus on God’s relationship by covenant to his master, Abraham
- B. For Success—Yahweh has guided me in the way to the house of my master’s brothers.
 - Remember, no maps, no GPS etc. Long distance. Doubtful if had ever been there!
 - Success which inflates the natural man, humbles the man of God!
 - Notice: **“I being in the way, the LORD led me.”**

V. PROVISIONS ACCEPTED (28-33)

- A. Report made (28, 30)
 - Someone from Canaan—a relative! The nearly legendary Abraham!
 - Women’s separate compartments; effects of bigamy led to bond with mothers
 - Possible invalid state of Bethuel?
 - Can Laban’s “grasping disposition” be seen even here, in his excitement over the ring and bracelets—then over the words.
- B. Invitation Given (29, 31)—Laban’s spiritual state is uncertain
 - “Come in, blessed of the LORD
 - Don’t stand outside when the house is prepared and a place for the camels.
- C. Hospitality Shown (32-33)
 1. Camels unloaded and given straw and feed
 2. Water for the feet of the man and the men who were with him.
 3. Food to eat—but refused it until he “told his business.”

VI. THE PAST REVIEWED (34-48)

- A. Identification (34)—not his name, but “Abraham’s servant.”
- B. Information (35-36)
 1. Abraham (35)—greatly blessed by Yahweh; rich (great—flocks & herds, silver & gold, servants & maids, camels & donkeys. **What else could a man need?**
 2. Isaac (36)—A son borne is his old age—given all to Isaac
 - Such information was vital and necessary to a prospective wife, but the servant makes no big deal out of it!
 - “Old age” explains how a son can marry a granddaughter.
- C. Interpretation (37-48)
 1. The oath with Abraham (37-41)—“Adds “before whom I have walked.”
 2. The incident at the well (42-48)—speaking was “in my heart”; God “had guided me in the right way”

CONCLUSION

Do you want to know God’s will? Romans 12:1-2

Do you want to know the rest of this story? **Come back next week!**