

GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES (May 14, 2023) Mom's Day FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

This morning is Mother's Day. Our Latino friends celebrate their moms twice this month. They always celebrate moms on May 10th. Some years the 10th is the second Sunday, but most years moms get two days. Moms are "la reina de la casa" (the queen of the house). Mother's Day can be a difficult day for some who miss their moms, or who were abandoned by their moms, or had moms who harmed them, or who failed to mom them as God intended. That's why we recognize all women on Mother's Day. Every woman, with few exceptions, even if they are not our recognized "mom" deserves to be honored for how they stepped in and served us as extra moms. In my life I have been incredibly blessed by numerous "mothers." I think of them now ... and I thank God for how each cared for me, taught me, encouraged me, comforted me, loved me. We crown them today. As we continue in our sermon series in the book of Genesis, we take a long journey. Abraham gave his trusted servant one task, a big and seemingly impossible task, "Go to my relatives and bring back a wife for my son Isaac." But would Abe's servant find the right woman, the right kind of woman, from the right family, with the right qualities? And ... would this woman be willing to leave everything she knew and travel with someone she did not know, to meet and marry a man she had never seen or spoken to? Long odds ... until you add God into the equation. Thank God for the women in our lives!

The Lord Directs the Way (Genesis 24:1-28 ... verses 1-16 printed here)

"^{24:1} Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things. ² And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he had, 'Put your hand under my thigh, ³ that I may make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell, ⁴ but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac.' ⁵ The servant said to him, 'Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?' ⁶ Abraham said to him, 'See to it that you do not take my son back there. ⁷ The Lord, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, "To your offspring I will give this land," He will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. ⁸ But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine; only you must

not take my son back there.' ⁹ So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master and swore to him concerning this matter. ¹⁰ Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, taking all sorts of choice gifts from his master; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia to the city of Nahor. ¹¹ And he made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at the time of evening, the time when women go out to draw water. ¹² And he said, 'O Lord, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham. ¹³ Behold, I am standing by the spring of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. ¹⁴ Let the young woman to whom I shall say, "Please let down your jar that I may drink," and who shall say, "Drink, and I will water your camels" — let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I shall know that you have shown steadfast love to my master.'

¹⁵ Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her water jar on her shoulder ... (verses 16-28 omitted here for the sake of space)"

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. What does this passage tell us about Abraham? About Abe's servant? About Rebekah? (Read 24:1-18) About God?
2. Why was it important to find Isaac's wife from Abe's kindred?
3. What did the servant do to fulfill his vow and find Isaac a wife?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

4. What does, "put your hand under my thigh" mean?
5. Why was Abe insistent, "do not take my son back there"?
6. Why was Abraham so confident God would provide a wife?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

7. Think about some of the most important decisions you've made in your life. How did you make those decisions?
8. Have you faced a situation or decision where things seemed impossible? What happened? Was God involved?
9. How can we trust God more for decisions we need to make?
10. How does knowing God is with you affect your decisions?
11. What decision do you need to make that seems impossible?

As you spend time praying remember that prayer is meant to be the most natural, and empowering, part of your day. Ask God to help you trust Him more. Pray for courage to make difficult, seemingly impossible, decisions. God will help you because He loves you.