

“A Marriage Made in Heaven”

Genesis 24

THE SEARCH FOR A WIFE

1. Abraham committed his search to the LORD in faith. v. 1-3a

- Use of an oath—this is a serious commitment. v.2: *Put your hand under my thigh...*

→ A central message throughout Scripture: Trust the LORD to provide? Or try to provide for myself?

2. The most important quality: a believer in the Messiah (Jesus Christ). v. 3b-9

- Isaac's wife must be follower of the LORD. v.3b-4: NOT from the Canaanites
- Isaac's wife must be walking in obedience to the LORD's plan for him and for her. v.5-8; Gen. 12:7; 13:15

3. Abraham's servant committed the matter in PRAYER to the LORD and looked for Him to work. v. 10-21

- The servant's prayer: v.12-14
- Rebekah was self-sacrificing, hospitable, and holy (Bethuel = 'house of God'). v.10,20,24

4. The implications of such a decision...

- Marriage & family are priorities to God. The home is HOLY. Deut. 6:2-3; 1 Cor. 7:39; 2 Cor. 6:14
- The home divided runs the risk of destruction. Ref. Gen 19:4-8, 30-38

→ The most important factor in a search for a spouse: are they a committed follower of Jesus Christ?

BIBLICAL QUALITIES TO LOOK FOR IN A SPOUSE

*Ask God to help you find these qualities in a spouse—and develop them in you!

1. A veteran of trials and temptations. Matthew 13:20-21

→ Christ's love has carried me through difficult times and proven my faith genuine.

2. Possessing a Christian view of the home. Ephesians 5:21-6:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7

→ Christ's love compels me to love those he has put in my life.

3. Manifesting “heart” repentance. 2 Corinthians 7:10-11

→ Christ's love has truly changed my nature and heart (not just superficially).

- ‘Godly grief’ leads to repentance that brings life. ‘Worldly grief’ produces death.

4. The ability to handle conflict. Proverbs 19:13; Ephesians 4:20-32; 1 Peter 3:8-12

→ I am not seeking to gain authority or importance from quarreling or controversy.

- This includes speaking the truth in love, not holding grudges, and forgiving when wronged.

5. Manifesting self-denial. Matthew 10:38-39; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

→ Christ's love compels me to no longer live for myself.

- A disposition toward laying down their life for God and others. “Other-focused”

6. The ability to handle money. Psalm 24:1; Matthew 13:22; 6:21

→ Everything I own belongs to the Lord. I am on guard against the love of money.

- I do not live beyond my means. I do not try to buy things I cannot pay for. I do not “store up for myself.”

7. Manifesting submission to authority. Ephesians 5:21f; Romans 13:1-2

→ Christ's love subdues me to Himself through various authorities: family, church, employment, government, etc.

8. The ability to keep commitments. Proverbs 2:12, 16-17; Psalm 15:4b

→ I am a man/woman of my word in little and big matters—even when it hurts.

9. Possessing deep, significant friendships with own sex. Proverbs 17:17; Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

→ I am accountable to people who know how I think and will challenge and support me.

10: Manifesting a correctable spirit and disposition. Proverbs 12:1; 27:6

→ I am not content with my sins. I desire to live in life-long repentance and to keep growing.

Time of Commitment... Joshua 24:14-15

Some Resources on Courtship and Dating...

Passion and Purity, Elisabeth Elliot

Quest for Love, Elisabeth Elliot

Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts, Drs. Les & Leslie Parrott

A Severe Mercy, Sheldon Vanauken

Knight in Shining Armor, P.B. Wilson