**Genesis 24**

 ***The Right Mate***

Introduction

1. How can I get the right mate?

2. In Genesis 24 Abraham is sending his servant to seek a wife for Isaac. I believe from this account we can draw 7 principles for marriage.

How can I get the right mate?

**I. THE PROMISE FOR THE RIGHT MATE 24:2, 9**

 ***A. The Person Of The Promise***

*‘the eldest servant’ Eleazer* is a beautiful picture of the Holy Spirit.

 ***B. The Pledge Of The Promise 2, 9***

 ***\*****Eleazer puts his hand under his thigh…*some felt he laid his hand on his private parts. It

 was a sacred vow. He has something in mind given to him by the father.

\*Before you launch out, what does the Father want in a mate?

 \*Depend on the Holy Spirit to find the right one for you.

How can I get the right mate?

**II. THE PREREQUISITE FOR THE RIGHT MATE 24:3-6**

*“Thou shalt not take a wife…”* No place in Scripture does God ever sanction His children

 marrying or dating an unbeliever.

***A. Never Marry or Date an Unbeliever***

This is before the law. The Law would not permit marrying a Gentile (when Israel did,

 there were always negative results. Israel was led away from the true God. *(II Cor. 6:14ff)*

 *Be not unequally yoked together with an unbeliever…*the reason is given in vss 14, 15.

 ***B. God’s Spirit is bound by the Father to never lead God’s children back to an unbelieving***

 ***world to find a husband or wife.*** God’s people are to find their mates among God’s

 people. The purpose of dating is not evangelism…lead them to Christ. **For those that**

 **do not end in disaster, there are dozens that do.** We are married to Jesus Christ.

 To date a non-Christian you are saying fellowship, joy and fulfillment are found apart

 from Christ. **It is simply not true. This is not an option, it’s an absolute!**

How can I get the right mate?

**III. THE PROVIDER FOR THE RIGHT MATE 24:7-9**

 ***A. The One Sent…****He shall send his angel before thee…*

\*Here is the reason why the Christian never needs to worry about finding the right mate.

 \*That’s how we are to find our mate…God sends an angel ahead of them and chooses.

 In our case, He sends the Holy Spirit ahead of us.

 ***B. The One Sure…***God has **One** particular girl in mind for Isaac.

\*This is not just a believing girl… *‘Any believer will do…’*

\*First, are they a believer? Then, do they meet the other qualification set by the Father?

 \*What does God want to see?

 \*There is One: *Find the girl that I have designed for you in eternity past. The one I choose*

 *with the exact life message, gifts, experiences needed to pour together with your life to*

 *make you one.*

***C. The One System…***the purpose of dating, premarital relations isn’t sexual experimentation.

 \*The purpose is by observation and time together...I am affirming this is God’s will for my

 life.

 \*Let’s say you married an unbeliever or the ‘wrong one’...I have news: when you stood

 before a sovereign God and said, *“I do”* you and your mate became the will of God…

 ***Surrender Absolutely***

 \*Unmarried: God has a special one picked out to compliment you.

 \* *“I’d like to get in on this”…* singleness is not a curse. For a chosen few they have no

 one to cling to but God. **Rest…He is enough…fall in love with Jesus and the greater**

 **plan He has for your life.**

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**IV. THE PRAYER FOR THE RIGHT MATE 24:10-14**

Make this a matter of prayer.

 ***A. This Is God’s Plan***

*“One”… “Whom Thou appoint” … “I shall know”*

***B. This Is God’s Person***

\*It is not something to guess at!

\*He is saying there is **One** girl and we can rest assured that this **One** is appointed by God.

 \*Let’s see what happens when you pray like that!

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**V. THE PROCESS FOR THE RIGHT MATE 24:15-22**

 ***A. Providence 15***

\*What a coincidence, he begins praying and Isaac’s second cousin appears. God brings

 them together. There are no accidents. In v. 21…God does it!

 \***God had picked out the very best He had.**

 ***B. Perspective 16-20***

\*She was *fair,* *very beautiful.* (I Peter 3) says *she had respect, a meek and quiet spirit…*

**That is the only kind of beauty and God recognizes.** That is the beauty to go for…the

 exterior fades, inner beauty intensifies. You live with the person!

 \*What are the qualities beyond being a believer? **++Absolutely surrendered**, *she was a*

 virgin. She had not known a man. She was morally pure. She lived among idol

 worshippers.

 \*Why is this so important? **Fulfillment apart from Christ is a lie!** Any time a believer

 commits adultery or fornication, that one is saying, *Jesus Christ is not enough.* *Jesus*

 *Christ is the only one of several sources of spiritual fulfillment.* **Only Jesus Christ can**

 **fill a God-shaped emptiness!** You say, *“I’ve blown it”.* Begin today…your body

 belongs to God. **Women, you are being used!** ++**She was selfless**. She put herself out

 for others.

 ***C. Pursuit 21-22***

**This is the one!!**

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**VI. THE PERMISSION FOR THE RIGHT MATE 24:23-60**

 **This is an answer to prayer…bring God into every aspect of the process.**

God not only prepared Rebekah, but He prepared her family as well. 50-52

 \*God places importance on the family’s approval for marriage.

 \*Today we do not have arranged marriages, but God grants approval through parents.

 \*If the parent is an unbeliever there may be exceptions, but not the rule.

 \*What are we to do with answered prayer? (v. 52) *When he heard…he worshipped the Lord*

 \*The right One that God has prepared for Isaac has her heart prepared… *I will go! (v. 58)*

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**VII. THE PRECIOUSNESS OF THE RIGHT MATE 24:61-67**

He married her…their love grew and the pain of his mother’s death was removed.

 \*This love grew…developed…and deepened with time.

**The most vital testimony you have is your marriage.**

\*God may be saying that your marriage can be more than it is. It can be a living testimony to a loving God. **It is time for each of you to stop living for yourself and give yourself and your marriage back over to God once and for all.**

**\***You may be in a one-sided marriage where love is not returned and your marriage seems to have grown cold…only one is following Christ. God may be calling you to play the role of the Savior to an unresponsive world…an unresponsive mate…to love the unloveable…to respond to the unappreciated…to serve the unnoticed in the midst of rejection **simply love them more.** Easy? No, impossible! He can do it! You can’t! Ask God for Grace to allow the love of Christ to be seen in a bad marriage.

\*Divorced? Deepen your relationship to Christ.

\*Unmarried…Let’s do it God’s way.

\*Single with no prospects in sight…become involved in what God is doing. Put Jesus Christ first. Give your time, talents and gifts to the cause of Christ.