

## REBEKAH, WHERE ARE YOUR GIFTS?

Text: Jer 2:32; Gen 24:53

32 Does a maiden forget her jewelry, a bride her wedding ornaments? Yet my people have forgotten me, days without number.

Gen 24:53 And the servant brought forth jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment, and gave them to Rebekah: he gave also to her brother and to her mother precious things.

Introduction: Genesis 24 illustrates the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. Abraham, symbolizing the Heavenly Father, sent his chief servant, symbolizing the self-effacing Spirit, to secure a bride for his son Isaac, symbolizing Christ. Rebekah's consent to accept Isaac as her husband transformed her entire life forever.

Let's look again at this story of romance and love that has so many powerful patterns for you and I and the Church today.

### I. A Bride for Isaac.

#### A. A search was made.

Gen 24:1 Abraham was now old and well advanced in years, and the Lord had blessed him in every way.

2 He said to the chief servant in his household, the one in charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh.

3 I want you to swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living,

4 but will go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac."

B. A prayer was prayed.

Gen 24:12 Then he prayed, "O Lord, God of my master Abraham, give me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham.

13 See, I am standing beside this spring, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water.

14 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."

C. A choice was made.

Gen 24:15 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.

16 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.

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

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

19 After she had given him a drink, she said, "I'll draw water for your camels too, until they have finished drinking."

20 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.

1. Notice, she has a servant heart.
2. And a serving hand.

D. A consent was given.

Gen 24:58 So they called Rebekah and asked her, "Will you go with this man?" "I will go," she said.

1. You alone make this decision.
2. God has no step-children or grand-children.

D. Gifts were given.

Gen 24:53 Then the servant brought out gold and silver jewelry and articles of clothing and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave costly gifts to her brother and to her mother.

- E. Can you imagine with me that the father-in-law to be is 140 years old and very wealthy?
1. This verse indicates a large dowry.
  2. Very costly gifts were given.

## II. Israel, God's Betrothed.

A. In Ezekiel, we are given the beautiful story spoken by God, 'YAHWEH,' Himself.

B. Discovered by God.

Ezek 16:1 The word of the Lord came to me:

2 "Son of man, confront Jerusalem with her detestable practices

3 and say, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says to Jerusalem: Your ancestry and birth were in the land of the Canaanites; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite.

4 On the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to make you clean, nor were you rubbed with salt or wrapped in cloths.

5 No one looked on you with pity or had compassion enough to do any of these things for you. Rather, you were thrown out into the open field, for on the day you were born you were despised.

6 "Then I passed by and saw you kicking about in your blood, and as you lay there in your blood I said to you, "Live!"

1. This story is given because Israel has forgotten her first love.

C. God extended His love by covenant to Her.  
Ezek 16:8 "Later I passed by, and when I looked at you and saw that you were old enough for love, I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Sovereign Lord, and you became mine.

9 "I bathed you with water and washed the blood from you and put ointments on you.

1. He washed her and made her clean.
2. He anointed Her.

D. He give Her costly gifts.  
Ezek 16:10 I clothed you with an embroidered dress and put leather sandals on you. I dressed you in fine linen and covered you with costly garments.

11 I adorned you with jewelry: I put bracelets on your arms and a necklace around your neck,

12 and I put a ring on your nose, earrings on your ears and a beautiful crown on your head.

13 So you were adorned with gold and silver; your clothes were of fine linen and costly fabric and embroidered cloth. Your food was fine flour, honey and olive oil. You became very beautiful and rose to be a queen.

1. God has never been opposed to men adorning their wives with fine jewelry.
2. And God has set a high standard for husbands to follow in properly providing for his wife.

F. Again we are witnesses to the wonder of love being expressed with gifts, costly gifts.

### III. The Church.

A. The Church is the Bride of Christ.

Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

B. The apostle Paul spoke concerning our betrothal.  
2 Cor 11:2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.

C. He has dressed us in His righteousness.  
Rev 19:8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)

D. And He has given us Gifts.

1. Pneumatic or spiritual gifts.

1 Cor 12:4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.

6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit,

to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,

9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,

10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

## 2. Charis or grace gifts.

Rom 12:6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.

7 If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach;

8 if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

## E. These are costly gifts.

1 Peter 1:18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers,

19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

Conclusion: We can all imagine that Rebekah wore her gifts to honor her husband, Isaac.

We can read on down a few verses further in Ezekiel chapter 16 at how Israel abused the gifts given her.

And we can all hear the instructions given to us, the Church concerning our gifts.

1 Peter 4:10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

11 If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

I titled this message “Rebekah, where are your gifts?”  
Let me remind you again of our primary text:  
Jer 2:32a “Does a maiden forget her jewelry, a bride her wedding ornaments?...”

Church where are our wedding gifts?

I penned a few excuses that could be spoken:

- 1] I'm not worthy!
- 2] I did not want to flaunt them!
- 3] I don't like some of them!
- 4] I never have opened up the boxes!

Please don't fall out with me today but it is inappropriate for a wife to leave her home without her wedding ring in place.