

Intro: You know people are having fun when they start creating nicknames for one another!

Lunchbox Banello! Charthouse Manager: 240 or 250 meals in day (Shift)

Instead he is making sandwiches for WR

Best part? Tuna Fish! Every year makes huge amounts of tuna fish salad...Doesn't even like it! Going extra mile!

That is what I want to talk with you about this morning. I call it "The Rebekah Principle" Going the Extra Mile!

The Rebekah Principle

Genesis 24:1-27; 50-59 Pg 14

1. God's Blessing Looks Different Than What We Expect. Gen 24:1-9

- "The Lord had blessed him in every way!"
 - >Leave home >Fought battles for his nephew >Death of his wife Sarah
 - >Wife kidnapped 2x >Watched destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
 - >Waited for decades for son >Tested with Isaac offering
- God Blesses Those who make the choice to walk with him!
 - >Swear you will find the right kind of wife (*Whatever happens don't get a wife worships false Gods*)
 - >Prioritize obeying God even over the desire he had for a wife for Isaac (*Whatever happens don't take him back!*)
 - >Trust that God will go before you and make your task successful (*He will send His angel before you!*)

*God's blessing is not the ABSENCE of Trials or Tribulations in your life, but rather the PRESENCE of God with you during them
"Fear not, I am with you!"*

2. God's Blessing Still Requires You To Be Faithful And Do Your Part. Gen 24:10-21

- Now...Abraham wants a wife for his son...and he is determined to find one that matches his values...Worship
*Key for youth...marry someone that shares your faith in Jesus! Solves a LOT of problems...not all..but many!
- Look at the things that he did:
 - >Made right preparations 10 Camels, Servants
 - >Took great dowry gifts 10;52 All kinds of good things! (Gold, silver jewelry, clothing, costly gifts)
 - >Went to right place 10 Right country, Right town, Right place! (Well)
 - >Watched closely 21 (Astonished: Head was spinning!) To see if he was successful)
- Look at the way that he prayed
 - >Prayed faithfully 12
 - >Prayed for more than himself! (Bless Abraham)
 - >Prayed specifically (Let her offer water for the camels as well)
 - >Prayed expectantly! (Let it happen now!)

God always answers instantly... We just don't SEE it instantly! (Daniel 10:12 "From the first day you spoke you were heard!")

3. God's Blessing Comes When We Are Willing to "Water the Camels" Ch 24:15-31

- Rebekah met all of Abraham's requirements...AND MORE! She was wise...he wanted a Good Helpmeet! Got it!
 - >Spiritual: Keeping herself pure
 - >Kind: Offered to give him water
 - >Adventurous/Unafraid: Let her stay with us 10 days: Nope...lets Go!!!!
Think about what that looked like from her viewpoint
One day...water, Next day, On her way to marry a man never seen!

Most importantly, Rebekah had a heart to Go the Extra Mile!

>Generous: Offered to go the Extra Mile! 10 camels X 5gal = 50 X 8lbs =400
10 camels X 15gal- 150 X 8lbs = 1200 lbs
10 camels X 30gal =300 X 8 lbs =2400 lbs

God Works through People like Rebekah!

We live in a world that is so suspicious, so jaded, so taken advantage of...reacted and become too cautious!

- We should aim at being that kind of person: Jesus said...Go the extra mile! Mt 5:40-42
- We should be that way with ministry, asking the question, how can I go the extra mile, instead of, how little
- Look at some folks who have done that...and the results (In their life...and life of others) L

Here is what I want you to see as they are sacrificing, serving, washing strangers underwear: Look at the Smiles!

VIDEO

CONCL:

Are you looking for God's blessing in the right way? Often comes in unexpected ways and unexpected times

It isn't in the absence of trial, or struggle, or difficulty or work, or sacrifice....It is His PRESENCE

Are you praying for God's Blessing the way the servant did? EXPECTANTLY With Right PREPARATION

Do you have the heart of Rebekah? FAITHFUL Willing to Go the extra mile? When was the last time?