

## Improved Uniform International SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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Of The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.  
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## Lesson for August 5

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## ISAAC'S HERITAGE

LESSON TEXT—Genesis 24:10, 15-20,  
34-36, 61-67.  
GOLDEN TEXT—I have a goodly heritage.—Psalm 16:8.

The ordinary things of life become extraordinary when we recognize in them the outworking of the plan of God. Our lesson presents one of history's sweetest love stories. It would be worth reading just for that reason, but it is also the account of God's hand in the carrying forward of His promised blessing on the seed of Abraham.

For a long time it seemed that there could be no fulfillment at all, for Sarah and Abraham had no child. Then by a miracle, God gave them a beloved son.

Isaac's remarkable deliverance in the hour when it looked as though he might be taken from his father (Gen. 22:10-12) was like bringing back one who was dead (Heb. 11:18).

He grew into manhood, and Abraham, good father and faithful servant of the Lord, determined that his son must have a goodly wife. So in accordance with Oriental custom he sent a most trusted servant back to their homeland to choose a bride from their own kindred.

The altogether charming story unfolds in our lesson as we see

I. A Faithful Servant (v. 10).

Full instructions from Abraham and an oath that he would not take a bride for Isaac from among the Canaanites, prepared the servant for his journey. Taking with him a goodly caravan and rich presents from his master, he set out on his journey.

There is much to learn here about the need of parental concern, and their interested action in helping young people to find the right mate. We see the importance of avoiding "mixed" marriages, especially those between a believer and an unbeliever.

We see the need of constant dependence on God, for only He has the wisdom and the knowledge of human hearts which can properly join two lives together. In our day when marriage so carelessly and casually contracted, these matters need special emphasis.

## II. A Fair Damsel (vv. 15-20).

To be good to look upon is certainly a desirable thing in a woman, but it has been far too much exploited in our day. Notice that while Rebekah was very fair, she also had those qualities of character and of experience which prepared her to be a good wife for Isaac.

She was kind and willing to serve; not only did she offer water to the servant of Abraham, but promptly watered his camels. Such an attitude of heart and mind is a great asset to a woman in marriage.

She was instructed in the domestic arts. The fact that she had come to draw water indicated that, and her ability to draw the water showed that she had experienced the duties of woman in the household.

Here is wise counsel for the young man who is interested in marriage, and for his parents as they guide him. Let him look for the girl with the fair countenance if he will, but let him be sure that there is something really worthwhile behind the pretty face.

No woman, no matter how extensive her culture or how rich her family, is ready for marriage until she knows something of the responsibilities of family life and has a will to do what she can for the care and comfort of others.

## III. An Honorable Proposal (vv. 34-38).

Abraham's trusted man, perceiving that God had led him to the one of His choice, at once stated his errand. There was no trickery, no smooth double-talk. This was a straight-out proposal that Rebekah come with him to be the bride of Isaac.

Notice that he made known his master's financial position, and made clear the place Rebekah would occupy as the wife of Isaac. That is as it should be. There is a contractual basis for marriage which calls for complete candor and honest dealing.

But there was more here, for Rebekah ultimately responded to the dictates of her own heart when she said, "I will go" (see v. 58). It was

IV. A Love Marriage (vv. 61-67).

Isaac, meditating in the twilight, presents a fine picture of a man spiritually ready to be a good husband. He had more to offer than riches. Let other young men follow his example.

The tender scene of their meeting, and of the love which welled up in their hearts at first sight of one another, needs no comment.

We do need to say that unless America gets back to real love marriages, our nation is destined for disaster. Matrimony based on physical attraction, improper emphasis on sex, or on convenience, will never be able to meet the stress of modern life. Love can and will do it, especially where those who thus love one another first love God.

## COME TO CHURCH

## Creamed Comments On The Sunday School Lesson

## ISAAC'S HERITAGE

Genesis 21: 10-67 for Sunday, August 5.

In this lesson are taught the need to arouse appreciation of our heritage of religious institutions, to develop steadfast loyalty to religious ideals, to emphasize the responsibility of the home in preserving our religious heritage, to illustrate the influence and responsibilities of women in preserving the spiritual inheritance of the race.

V. 10. "And the servant took ten camels of the camels of his master, and departed; for all the goods of his master were in his hand; and he arose, and went to Mesopotamia, unto the city of Nahor." Pure progeny was to be maintained in God's appointed family; blood inheritance is of prime importance.

V. 15. "And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcha, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher on her head." Abraham's servant accepted his mission so seriously that he engaged in earnest prayer that he might be rightly guided in making the right choice of a wife for Isaac. Marriage is a serious business and it ought to be preceded by much praying.

V. 16, 17. "And the damsel was very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her; and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and then came up. And the servant took Rebekah to meet her, and said, Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher." The sign this servant asked in his prayer was

accepted his mission so seriously that he engaged in earnest prayer that he might be rightly guided in making the right choice of a wife for Isaac. Marriage is a serious business and it ought to be preceded by much praying.

V. 36. "Rand Sarah my master's wife bare a son of my master when she was old; and unto him hath he given all that he hath." It was a matter of family record that there was pure blood and pious background in this chosen people of God.

V. 61. "And Rebekah rose and her damsels, and they rode upon the camels, and followed the man; and the servant took Rebekah and went his way." Full consent had been obtained from Rebekah's family. A happy home calls for harmony.

V. 62. "And Isaac came from the way of the well Lahairoi; for he dwelt in the South country." Isaac was in a receptive mood for he put himself in the way of the coming bride. One can take forward steps without being forward.

V. 63. "And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at eventide; and he lifted up his eyes and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming." Isaac in his meditation provided the means whereby the voice of God could be made manifest. The sorrow of his mother was still his and the thought of another home with a happy companion was a matter for profound thought and thanksgiving.

V. 64. "And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel." She did what was considered good from which is not to be disregarded in the process of marriage.

But the greatest praise needs to be given when there is a real sacrifice made by the child in sharing with others—that sharing that is free from expecting anything in return, the sharing that has in it a service of love.

The guidance needed is that which will induce the child to enjoy sharing what he has with others; it is the "only-one" child that usually grows up selfish. Parents, when they receive any thing for their children, should remember to give expressions of gratitude, thus encouraging expressions of thoughtfulness.

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DO YOU KNOW?

1. How old was Abraham when Isaac was born?

2. What significant thing happened at Beersheba?

3. Why was Abraham requested to offer his son, Isaac?

4. Where was Isaac directed to find a wife?

5. Where were Abraham and Sarah buried?

Answers found on page ...

## ANSWERS TO "DO YOU KNOW?"

1. One hundred years.

2. A covenant between Abraham and Abimelech.

3. Because he loved Isaac more than God.

4. In Abraham's native country.

5. In Abraham's native country.

6. In the cave of Macpelah.

## Our Preacher Says

Says

D. Carl Yoder

The Rev. Dr. William Barrow Pugh, the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., is now making the annual official visitation to chaplains in the Pacific Ocean Area as the representative of the General Commission on Army and Navy Chaplains. He made a similar visitation of theatres in Europe, Africa, Asia, and E. America.

The Methodist Board of Evangelism, Nashville, Tenn., recently approved an evangelistic radio program to be sponsored by the Upper Room, its devotional quarterly, and appropriated \$52,000 for establishing a radio department.

It is said that 22 of the 25 great historic buildings of France are practically intact, except that some are damaged. The Rouen cathedral, which is the worst injured, suffered less than the Rheims cathedral did in World War I. That these old cathedrals and chateaux should so generally have escaped injury is a matter for thanksgiving.

At the annual sessions in Chicago of the Council of Bishops of the Methodist Church, plans to encourage daily devotions in every Methodist home were announced as one

of the next steps of the Crusade for Christ toward its four year goal of a million new members.

Hope was expressed that five hundred new churches may be formed during that period. The crusade's \$25,000,000 goal for postwar relief and reconstruction recently was exceeded by \$1,000,000.

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