

# *This Time...I will get it done!*

## **#4 Rebekah (Genesis 24)**

### **I. Some Background**

- A. Abraham makes an oath with his servant, Eliezer (vs. 1-9)
  - 1. Eliezer is first mentioned in Genesis 15:2 as the chief servant, he would have inherited all of Abraham's wealth if Abraham died without an heir.
  - 2. 60 years later, Abraham and Eliezer make a solemn oath!

A word about oaths:

- 1. There were various formulas:
  - "The Lord be between thee and me forever"
  - "As the Lord lives..."
- 2. It was signified in various ways:
  - a. Raising one's hand to heaven (Gen. 14, Deut. 32)
  - b. Taking off shoes (Ruth 4)
  - c. Slaying and dividing an animal (Gen. 15)
  - d. Placing your hand under another man's thigh (Gen. 47:29)

- 3. Eliezer is to find a bride for Isaac (40 year old man)
  - a. Not from among the Caananites (Gen. 9:25-27)
  - b. He journeys to Haran (city of Nahor)
  - c. The ancestral home of Abraham
    - 1. Nahor is Abraham's brother
    - 2. Rebekah is Nahor's grand-daughter
    - 3. Laban is Rebekah's brother
- 4. Eliezer seeks a sign from the Lord (vs. 10-27) "When I ask for a drink, she will also offer to water my camels."

A word about signs:

1. Consider Gideon – Judges 6
2. Consider the Philistines with the ark – 1 Sam. 6
3. Consider Jonathan – 1 Sam. 14

“Give me success” – literally it means “go before me”

## II. Rebekah (20 years old or less)

- A. In the evening, Rebekah appears at the well. Beautiful and a virgin: very desirable
- B. Vs. 18 “She quickly” lowers the jar to give Eliezer a drink
- C. Vs. 19 “She quickly” begins to water the camels as well

Note: Camels drink between 9 and 20 gallons of water in a day. There were 10 camels (vs. 10). A gallon of water weighs 8 lbs. She drew up 1600 lbs of water!

- D. Eliezer tells his story to Rebekah (vs. 26) and then to her family (vs. 32-50). **Note:** this is the first speech recorded in the bible.
- E. The family blessing is made (vs. 51) and the dowry paid (vs. 53)
- F. Eliezer decides to head back the next morning. The family thinks that is too soon (vs. 58). But Rebekah replies, “I will go.” (Same response as Ruth’s in Ruth 1:16)
- G. She travels back to the Negev. Rebekah has never met her husband, Isaac. But note her reaction...

vs. 64 “She fell from the camel.” Literally, she threw herself off and sprang quickly down.

Don’t miss how she responds: Quickly, quickly, stating “I will go” and jumping off the camel! There was no reluctance, no delay, no avoidance, no procrastination. This time, I will go.

## III. So what? How about you and I?

The opposite of “Quickly...Yes...I’ll go” is procrastination.

- A. Some facts:
  1. 20% of people identify themselves as chronic procrastinators
  2. Procrastination is learned behavior
  3. Procrastinators are self deceived and end up squandering resources like time.

4. Procrastinators actively look for distractions – it's a way of dealing with their fear of failure.
  5. Procrastinators avoid decisions – they lack confidence.
- B. Why people procrastinate
1. They are unorganized
  2. They lack self discipline – they avoid things that are unpleasant
  3. They get easily overwhelmed
- C. Some anti-procrastination strategies (time management skills adapted from [www.mindtools.com](http://www.mindtools.com))
1. Change this habit (it is a habit!)
    - a. Make up your own reward system
    - b. Be accountable to someone else
    - c. Make a list of the unpleasant consequences of not doing the task
  2. Get organized
    - a. Keep a to do list
    - b. Prioritize the list
    - c. Work backwards from a deadline
    - d. Put time constraints on your goals
  3. Don't be overwhelmed
    - a. Break the project into smaller more manageable pieces
    - b. Do the more difficult parts first
  4. Become more decisive
    - a. Put time limits on yourself
    - b. Make a list of things you are confident at – review it regularly (it will help you make more decisions with confidence)
    - c. If you make a mistake, laugh it off
    - d. Learn to manage your emotions

## Discussion Questions:

1. Are you a procrastinator? Can you identify the source? What is it?
2. Which anti-procrastination strategy will probably work best for you? Who can you be accountable to?