

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67  
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

## WILL YOU GO WITH THIS MAN?

What a marvelous love story we have today,  
with very clear indications of God's hand and voice in leading the actors  
(Abraham's servant and Rebekah, in particular)  
to accomplish God's goals for blessing.

Now we have to ask ourselves,  
if we found ourselves approached by a rich man who responded  
to our kindness with gifts of jewelry, prayers of blessing,  
and then the challenge from our friends and neighbors:  
"Will you go with this man?"  
In today's world, certainly not!

Isn't it awesome how Abraham and Isaac's servant prayed fervently  
that God would identify Isaac's future wife by having her  
not only give him water when he asked but also she drew water  
for his camels, too.

There just could not have been a more definite way to identify her.  
He explains his mission to her, then clearly asks  
if she will interact loyally and honestly with Abraham;  
if not, he would turn away and continue his journey.

But Rebekah agreed to go, and her nurses and maidservants  
joined her with prayers of blessing for her and her future family.

When they approach Isaac's home,

Rebekah immediately notices him walking toward them.

I suspect the God whispered to her that he was her future husband,  
leading her to dismount the camel, wrap herself in a veil  
and wait for him.

When his servant related all that had happened,

Isaac brings Rebekah into his mother's tent and takes her as his wife.

Best part is that he loved her,

and I think we can be confident that she loved him, too.

Wisdom reigns in their tent and leads their lives together.

Abraham is greatly blessed. Again.

Today, if someone asked you to leave everything behind to go with them,  
what, if anything, would it take for you to agree?

Yet think about Jesus calling his disciples many years later.

They left behind their boats, their nets and their families  
to follow and learn from Jesus.

How likely is that to happen in our time and place?

Jesus talks about his current generation,

where the adults are like children taunting and mocking each other,  
and heaping insults on the reputation of John the Baptist and on Jesus.

Foolishness. Selfishness. Ignorance.

And Jesus thanks God for hiding his wisdom from so many ignorant,  
ungracious people.

Jesus invites all who are weary of carrying burdens—

physical or emotional—to come to him for much-needed rest.

Then he says, “Take my yoke upon you”—

the yoke was used on oxen to attach them to wagons and carts  
so they could pull those heavy weights.

“I am gentle and humble in heart,” he says,  
telling them that they will find rest for their souls in him.

While it seems heavy and burdensome,  
he characterizes his yoke as easy.

The miracles and blessings we receive from our Lord!

If Jesus, looking like a harmless homeless man,  
approached you on the sidewalk,  
asking you to help him find cold water,  
would you take him to the closest place and buy him some?

What a blessing that would be for him and for you.

Let us continue to reflect on divine wisdom and challenges to us.

Let us pray:

Wherever we are, Lord,

We know we are together, united in faithful prayer.

We thank you Father God, Lord Jesus and Holy Spirit,

we glorify you, we worship you,  
and we count on you, especially during these devastating times,  
to bless us with continuing faith and health.

Equip us always with strong faith and the right words  
to adequately tell your story of salvation,  
that more souls may be harvested.

Bless the fathers in our lives for their loving presence.

You are our Rock and our Redeemer.

You sustain us with your never-ending love.

You encourage us to express with joy our love for you.

In your precious name we pray,

Amen.