

# Example of A Faithful Servant

Genesis 24



# What Does It Take to Be a Servant?

Mark 10:43–45 (NET)

<sup>43</sup> But it is not this way among you. Instead whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of all. <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”



In Today's Lesson we will look at one of the great Servants of the Old Testament. This Great Servant will give us insight on what it takes to be a Servant of our Lord.



# Characters in our love story

- Abraham
- Isaac
- Rebecca
- Laban
- Rebecca's Mother
- The Faithful Servant

In today's story we will focus on the character of the faithful servant and Rebecca.



A faithful servant serves even in an impossible mission



# Abraham's journey is nearly over.

<sup>1</sup> Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years, and the LORD had blessed him in everything.

- Sarah has passed away
- Abraham is about 140 years old. Isaac is 40.
- Abraham has been blessed with old age, riches and a son.



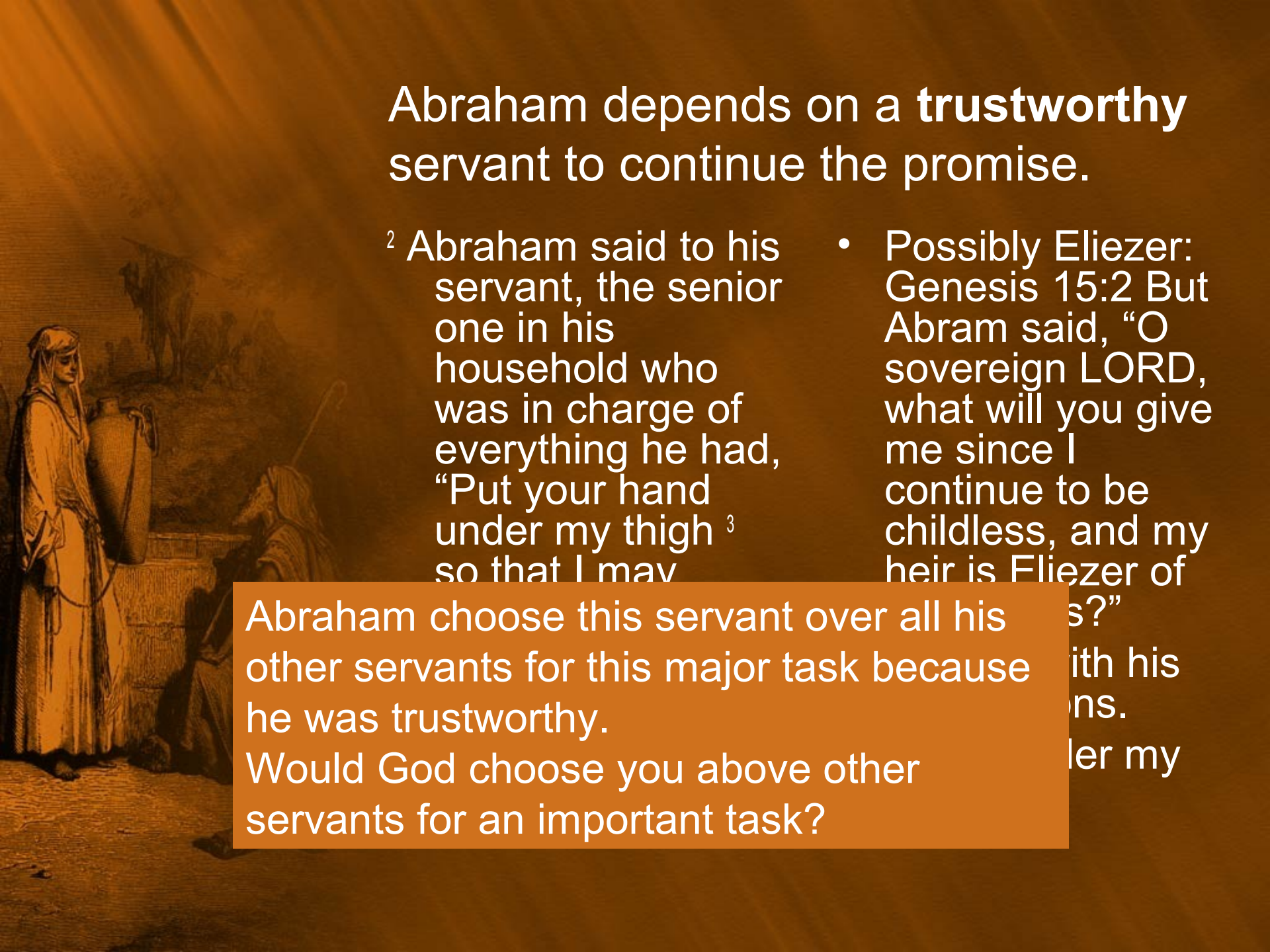
# Abraham depends on a **trustworthy** servant to continue the promise.

<sup>2</sup> Abraham said to his servant, the senior one in his household who was in charge of everything he had, “Put your hand under my thigh <sup>3</sup> so that I may

- Possibly Eliezer: Genesis 15:2 But Abram said, “O sovereign LORD, what will you give me since I continue to be childless, and my heir is Eliezer of Damascus?”

Abraham choose this servant over all his other servants for this major task because he was trustworthy.

Would God choose you above other servants for an important task?



# Abraham trusts his servant with a difficult mission

You must not acquire a wife for my son from the daughters of the

- Find a God fearing woman, not the locals.
- His country is about 450 miles

As Parents, do we take extreme measures to find the right partner for our children?

As a young person, are you willing to wait until your 40 for the right partner?

As God's Servant, are you trustworthy enough to be entrusted with a difficult mission?

and to my relatives to find





# A Faithful Servant Wants to get it right.

<sup>5</sup> The servant asked him, “What if the woman is not willing to come back with me to this land? Must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?”

It's a long journey. Should Abraham die before he returns, he wants to know what to do if his mission fails.



# Abraham encourages the servant.

<sup>6</sup> “Be careful never to take my son back there!” Abraham told him. <sup>7</sup> “The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father’s house and the land of my relatives, promised me with a solemn oath, ‘To your descendants I will give this land.’ He will send his angel before you so that you may find a wife for my son from there.

- Abraham is committed to God’s promise.
- Abraham believes God will fulfill the promise.
- With his own faith, he encourages the faith of the servant.
- Abraham’s confidence in God gives him confidence in the servant and in the mission.



# A Faithful Servant will commit to a Difficult Mission.

<sup>8</sup> But if the woman is not willing to come back with you, you will be free from this oath of mine. But you must not take my son back there!” <sup>9</sup> So the servant placed his hand under the thigh of his master

- “The woman” — Abraham believes God has a single person chosen for Isaac.
- A Faithful Servant will attempt to satisfy the wishes of his master, regardless of the

Will you Promise God to do something big for him?

Will you follow through, or is your promise just lip service?

plan  
et

# A Faithful Servant prepares appropriately for the Mission.

<sup>10</sup> Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed with all kinds of gifts from his master at his disposal. He journeyed to the

- He took provisions for the trip.
- He took gifts to encourage the girl and the family.
- He took provisions for the

When God gives you a project, do you make proper preparation, or wing it?

he was told to go.



# The Servant plans his approach

- <sup>11</sup> He made the camels kneel down by the well outside the city. It was evening, the time when the women would go out to draw water.
- The well is the perfect place to meet the local women.



# The Faithful Servant humbles himself to divine guidance

<sup>12</sup> He prayed, “O LORD, God of my master Abraham, guide me today. Be faithful to my master Abraham. <sup>13</sup> Here I am, standing by the spring, and the daughters of the people who live in the town are coming out to draw water. <sup>14</sup> I will say to a young woman, ‘Please lower your jar so I may drink.’ May the one you have chosen for your

- He calls on the God of Abraham.
- He prays for God:
  - To Continue blessing Abraham (be faithful)
  - To have specific requests answered in a specific way to show him the one God had chosen.
- Abraham’s faith has influenced this servant

Do we seek God’s leading, even in the midst of the mission he has given us?

way I will know that you have been faithful to my



# The Character of the person God chooses.

<sup>15</sup> Before he had finished praying, there came Rebekah with her water jug on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah (Milcah was the wife of Abraham's brother

- God answers our prayers even before we complete them.
- Characteristics:
  - She's family
  - She's beautiful
  - She's pure
  - She's not lazy.

God chooses people of Character to fulfill his purpose. Are you that person? Can you become that person?

relations with her.  
She went down to the spring, filled her jug, and came back

# The Faithful Servant is anxious to do his task.

- <sup>17</sup> Abraham's servant ran to meet her and said, "Please give me a sip of water from your
- He is quick to test the girl.

When we ask for leading, are we hesitant to move forward believing he will act upon it?





# Rebecca becomes the servant to the servant

<sup>18</sup> “Drink, my lord,” she replied, and quickly lowering her jug to her hands, she gave him a drink. <sup>19</sup> When she had done so, she said, “I’ll draw water for your camels too, until they have drunk as much as they want.” <sup>20</sup> She quickly emptied her jug into the watering trough and ran back to the

- God has fulfilled the prayer request through Rebecca:
  - Identifying her as the chosen one
  - Revealing her character as a servant:
    - Generous
    - Kind
    - caring
    - Industrious

Do we have Rebecca’s Godly character of a servant?

his camels.



# The Faithful Servant is careful

- <sup>21</sup> Silently the man watched her with interest to determine if the LORD had made his journey successful or not.
- I hope she's family
  - She sure has great character



# The Faithful Servant is generous and inquiring?

<sup>22</sup> After the camels had finished drinking, the man took out a gold nose ring weighing a beka and two gold bracelets weighing ten

- After giving the gifts he makes additional inquiry.
- To find out if she is family to Abraham.
- To obtain a place to stay.

Are we generous?

Do we inquire closely to make sure we don't jump to conclusions too quickly?

asked. "Tell me, is there room in your father's house for us to spend the



# Rebecca the Servant is hospitable.

- <sup>24</sup> She said to him, “I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, whom Milcah bore to Nahor.” <sup>25</sup>
- She is family
  - She is hospitable. It must have been a family trait.

Are we hospitable?  
of straw and  
feed,” she  
added, “and  
room for you to



# The Faithful Servant praises God for success

<sup>26</sup> The man bowed his head and worshiped the LORD, <sup>27</sup> saying “Praised be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has

- Abraham’s faith has become this man’s faith.
- The Servant shares many of Abraham’s Godly Characteristics.

Do we immediately praise God and give testimony when God answers our prayers?  
Do the characteristics of our Master rub off on us?

master’s relatives!”

# A Servant shares good news

<sup>28</sup> The young woman ran and told her mother's household all about these things.  
<sup>29</sup> (Now Rebekah had a brother named Laban.) Laban rushed out to meet the man at the spring. <sup>30</sup> When he saw the bracelets on his sister's wrists and the nose ring and heard his sister Rebekah say, "This is what the man said to me," he went out to meet the man. There he was, standing by the camels near the spring.



# Others recognize a blessed servant

<sup>31</sup> Laban said to him, “Come, you who are blessed by the LORD! Why are you standing out here when I have prepared the house and a place for the camels?”



# A Faithful Servant must carry through his orders

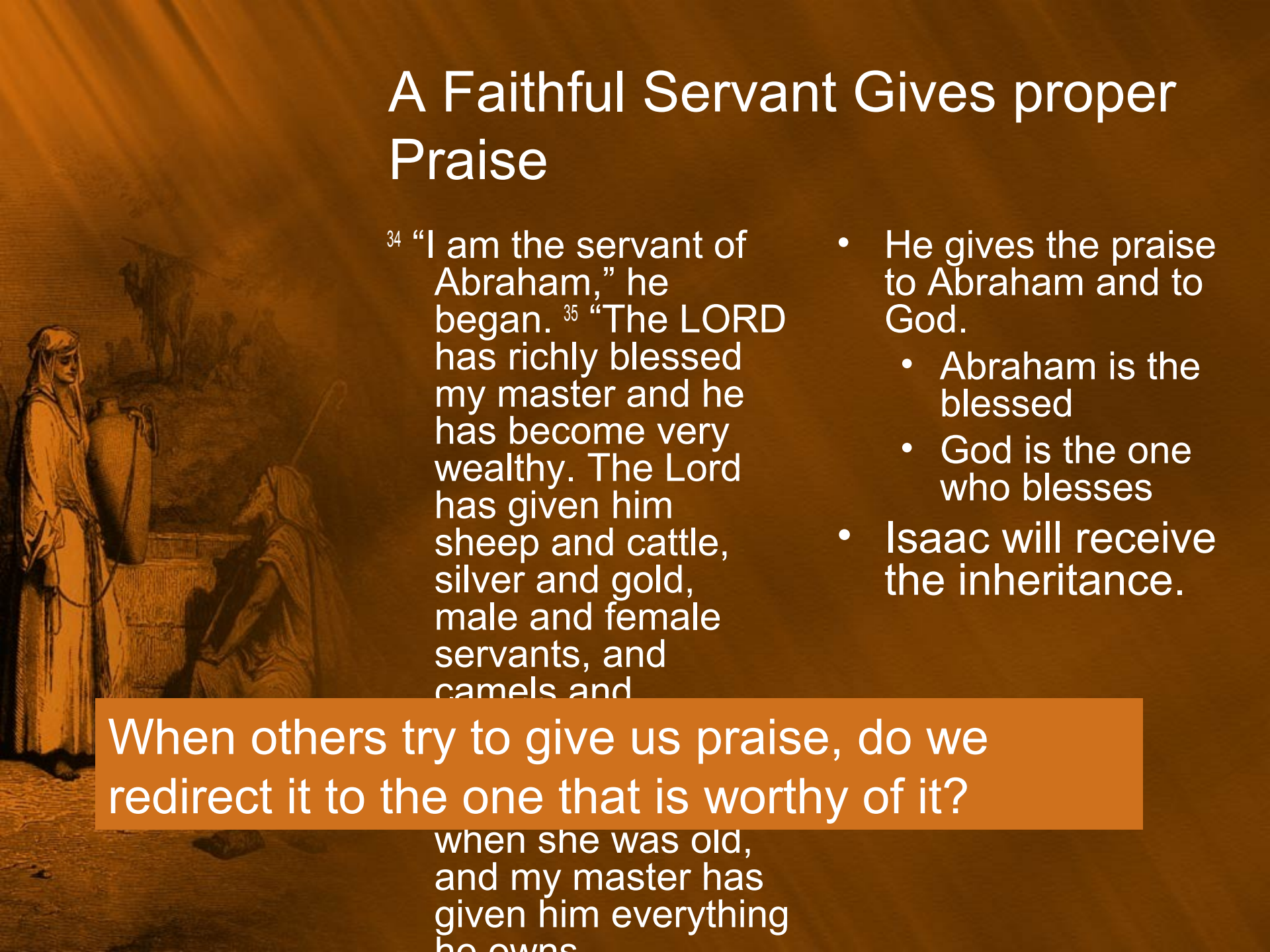
<sup>32</sup> So Abraham's servant went to the house and unloaded the camels. Straw and feed were given to the camels, and water was provided so that he and the men who were with him could wash their feet. <sup>33</sup> When food was served, he said, "I will not eat until I have said what I want to say." "Tell us," Laban said.

Don't let hospitality and good party slow down your mission.





# A Faithful Servant Gives proper Praise



<sup>34</sup> “I am the servant of Abraham,” he began. <sup>35</sup> “The LORD has richly blessed my master and he has become very wealthy. The Lord has given him sheep and cattle, silver and gold, male and female servants, and camels and

- He gives the praise to Abraham and to God.
  - Abraham is the blessed
  - God is the one who blesses
- Isaac will receive the inheritance.

When others try to give us praise, do we redirect it to the one that is worthy of it?

when she was old,  
and my master has  
given him everything  
he owns

# The Faithful Servant puts the Mission above all else

<sup>37</sup> My master made me swear an oath. He said, 'You must not acquire a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living, <sup>38</sup> but you must go to the family of my father and to my relatives to find a wife for my son.' <sup>39</sup> But I said to my master, 'What if the woman does not want to go with me?'

Do we keep the mission of the servant at the forefront of our thoughts?



# The Faithful Servant shares the nature of his mission with others

<sup>40</sup> He answered, 'The LORD, before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you. He will make your journey a success and you will find a wife for my son from among my relatives, from my father's family. <sup>41</sup> You will be free from your oath if you go to my relatives and they will not give her to you. Then you will be free from your oath.'

Are we hesitant to share our mission with others? Do we have a mission to share?



# The Faithful Servant includes others in his prayers

<sup>42</sup> When I came to the spring today, I prayed, 'O LORD, God of my master Abraham, if you have decided to make my journey successful, may events unfold as follows: <sup>43</sup> Here I am, standing by the spring. When the young woman goes out to draw water, I'll say, "Give me a little water to drink from your jug." <sup>44</sup> Then she will reply to me, "Drink, and I'll draw water for your camels too." May that woman be the one whom the LORD has chosen for my master's son.'



# The Faithful servant shares the testimony of answered prayers

<sup>45</sup> “Before I finished praying in my heart, along came Rebekah with her water jug on her shoulder! She went down to the spring and drew water. So I said to her, ‘Please give me a drink.’ <sup>46</sup> She quickly lowered her jug from her shoulder and said, ‘Drink, and I’ll give your camels water too.’ So I drank, and she also gave the camels water.

Do we tell others about how God has answered our prayers?



# The Faithful Servant acknowledges God's providence

<sup>47</sup> Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She replied, 'The daughter of Bethuel the son of Nahor, whom Milcah bore to Nahor.' I put the ring in her nose and the bracelets on her wrists. <sup>48</sup> Then I bowed down and worshiped the LORD. I praised the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me on the right path to find the granddaughter of my master's brother for his son.

Do you take credit for your successes, or acknowledge God's providential care and provisions in your successes?



# The Faithful Servant encourages others to respond with love to God's show of love

<sup>49</sup> Now, if you will show faithful love to my master, tell me. But if not, tell me as well, so that I may go on my way.”



# The Servants Testimony is rewarded with acknowledgement of God's providence



<sup>50</sup> Then Laban and Bethuel replied, “This is the LORD’s doing. Our wishes are of no concern.”<sup>51</sup> Rebekah stands here before you. Take her and go so that she may become the wife of your master’s son, just as the LORD has decided.”

- Laban’s proclamation:
  - God’s in control of this
  - Our wishes don’t matter
  - It’s not even up to Rebekah because God has decided it.
- The matter is determined.



# The Faithful Servant gives thanks and moves on.

<sup>52</sup> When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed down to the ground before the LORD. <sup>53</sup> Then he brought out gold, silver jewelry, and clothing and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave valuable gifts to her brother and to her mother. <sup>54</sup> After this, he and the men who were with him ate a meal and stayed there overnight. When they got up in the morning, he said, "Let me leave now so I can return to my




As God's servants be thankful to those that help complete your mission, but move on with the mission.

# Others will try to detour the Servant from his mission

<sup>55</sup> But Rebekah's brother and her mother replied, "Let the girl stay with us a few more days, perhaps ten. Then she can go."



# A Faithful Servant won't be detained from the mission.



<sup>56</sup> But he said to them, “Don’t detain me – the LORD has granted me success on my journey. Let me leave now so I may return to my master.” <sup>57</sup> Then they said, “We’ll call the girl and find out what she wants to do.” <sup>58</sup> So they called Rebekah and asked her, “Do you want to go with this man?” She replied, “I want to go.”

- The servant is focused on the oath and the mission.
- He is in a hurry to share the story and success with his Master.
- The Mother and Laban forgot their earlier words that it was determined by God.
- All of sudden the girl’s wishes matter.
- God moved Rebekah’s heart.

# The Servant (Rebekah) follows God's will, even to the unknown

<sup>59</sup> So they sent their sister Rebekah on her way, accompanied by her female attendant, with Abraham's servant and his men. <sup>60</sup> They blessed Rebekah with these words: "Our sister, may you become the mother of thousands of ten thousands! May your descendants possess the strongholds of their enemies." <sup>61</sup> Then Rebekah and her female servants mounted the camels and rode away with

Would you be willing to go into the unknown if God chose you to do so?



# The Son waits for the Faithful Servant.

<sup>62</sup> Now Isaac came from Beer Lahai Roi, for he was living in the Negev. <sup>63</sup> He went out to relax in the field in the early evening. Then he looked up and saw that there were camels approaching.



# The Faithful Servant points others (the chosen) to the Master

<sup>64</sup> Rebekah looked up and saw Isaac. She got down from her camel <sup>65</sup> and asked Abraham's servant, "Who is that man walking in the field toward us?" "That is my master," the servant replied. So she took her veil and covered herself.

Do we point others in the direction of our Master?



# The Son is blessed by the Servant's faithfulness.

<sup>66</sup> The servant told Isaac everything that had happened. <sup>67</sup> Then Isaac brought Rebekah into his mother Sarah's tent. He took her as his wife and loved

- He repeats the story of God's loving guidance
- Isaac has the wife God chose for him, and he loves her.

How does our service bless our Master?

after his mother's death.



# Conclusion

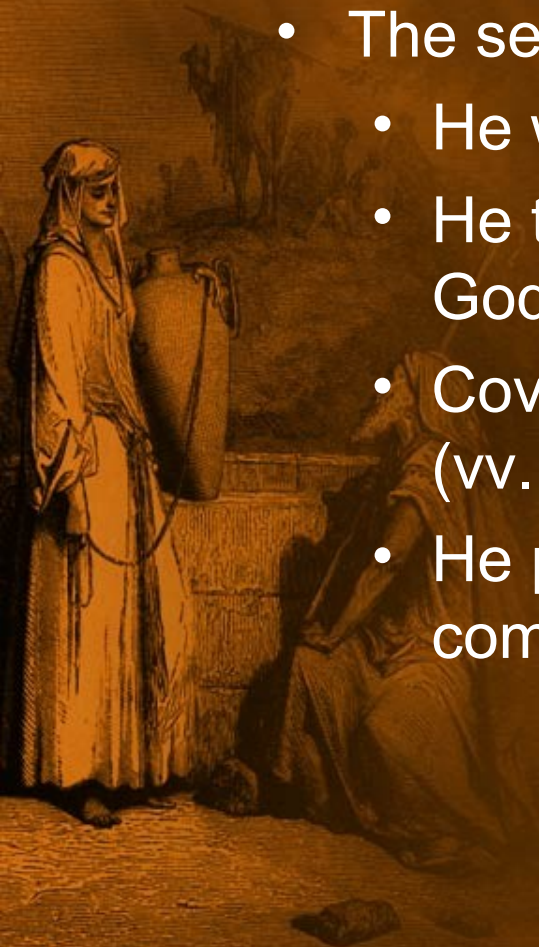
- God was the sole cause of all the events in the story.
  - The choice of a bride for Isaac was God's.
    - The sign confirmed it.
    - Laban recognized it.
    - Rebekah complied with it.





# Though events were orchestrated by God. Human responsibility was also evident

- The servant faithfully carried out his assignment.
  - He was loyal to his mission and serve his Master.
  - He trusted God implicitly, looking in prayer to God's leading.
  - Covenant loyalty was his predominant motivation (vv. 9, 12, 27, 49).
  - He praised God even before his assignment was completed (vv. 27, 48-49).



# Are You a Faithful Servant?

