

Rebekah - Above and Beyond

Genesis 24:15-27; 50-58

Genesis 24:15-27

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ While he was still praying, a beautiful unmarried young woman came by with a water jar on her shoulder. She was Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Abraham's brother Nahor and his wife Milcah. Rebekah walked past Abraham's servant, then went over to the well, and filled her water jar. When she started back, ¹⁷ Abraham's servant ran to her and said, "Please let me have a drink of water."

¹⁸ "I'll be glad to," she answered. Then she quickly took the jar from her shoulder and held it while he drank. ¹⁹⁻²⁰ After he had finished, she said, "Now I'll give your camels all the water they want." She quickly poured out water for them, and she kept going back for more, until his camels had drunk all they wanted. ²¹ Abraham's servant did not say a word, but he watched everything Rebekah did, because he wanted to know for certain if this was the woman the LORD had chosen.

²² The servant had brought along an expensive gold ring and two large gold bracelets. When Rebekah had finished bringing the water, he gave her the ring for her nose and the bracelets for her arms. ²³ Then he said, "Please tell me who your father is. Does he have room in his house for me and my men to spend the night?"

²⁴ She answered, "My father is Bethuel, the son of Nahor and Milcah. ²⁵ We have a place where you and your men can stay, and we also have enough straw and feed for your camels."

²⁶ Then the servant bowed his head and prayed, ²⁷ "I thank you, LORD God of my master Abraham! You have led me to his relatives and kept your promise to him."

Gen24:50-58

⁵⁰ Laban and Bethuel answered, "The LORD has done this. We have no choice in the matter. ⁵¹ Take Rebekah with you; she can marry your master's son, just as the LORD has said." ⁵² Abraham's servant bowed down and thanked the LORD. ⁵³ Then he gave clothing, as well as silver and gold jewellery, to Rebekah. He also gave expensive gifts to her brother and her mother.

⁵⁴ Abraham's servant and the men with him ate and drank, then spent the night there. The next morning, they got up, and the servant told Rebekah's mother and brother, "I would like to go back to my master now."

⁵⁵ "Let Rebekah stay with us for a week or ten days," they answered. "Then she may go."

⁵⁶ But he said, "Don't make me stay any longer. The LORD has already helped me find a wife for my master's son. Now let us return."

⁵⁷ They answered, "Let's ask Rebekah what she wants to do." ⁵⁸ They called her and asked, "Are you willing to leave with this man at once?"

"Yes," she answered.

Above & Beyond:

The passage advocates for the importance of going above and beyond expectations in various aspects of life, citing examples from the Bible, particularly the actions of Rebekah and a servant of Abram.

- Valuable things require extra effort to obtain.
- Going above and beyond the call of duty is necessary.
- Acts of kindness or going out of one's way leave a lasting impact.
- Opportunities are missed when minimal effort is given.
- Rebekah's willingness to exceed expectations is highlighted.
- Many settle for the minimum effort, seeking maximum benefit.
- The Kingdom of God values those who go above and beyond.
- Criticism may accompany efforts to exceed expectations.
- Jesus emphasizes faithfulness in small things for trust with much.
- Everyday behaviour reflects one's walk in Christ.
- Being watched influences both others' and one's future.

Tough Sayings:

Discusses tough sayings attributed to Jesus, such as turning the other cheek and going the second mile, emphasizing the value of going beyond the minimum requirements.

- Jesus' tough sayings emphasize going the extra mile.
- Walking the second mile signifies a voluntary effort beyond obligation.
- Roman authority mandated the first mile, but the second mile was a choice.
- Shocking others with unexpected generosity reflects Jesus' teachings.
- The Christian distinguishes by exceeding expectations.
- Going above and beyond is a powerful witness for Christ.
- Christians should strive for excellence in their efforts.
- The Spirit-filled life empowers ordinary people for extraordinary tasks.

How Should The Above And Beyond Principle Work In Our Lives:

Emphasizes that exceeding expectations and doing more than required can lead to unexpected blessings and positive outcomes in one's life.

- Living by a measuring rod contradicts God's teachings.
- Christians are called to do more than required.
- Walking the second mile follows the completion of the first mile.
- Thoroughly doing small tasks is a prerequisite for greater responsibilities.

- Extra blessings result from extra effort.
- Marriages, relationships, and roles benefit from going above and beyond.
- Demand for rights can be detrimental; focus on responsibilities.
- Christians are those who consistently go above and beyond.

What's a good Christian?

Encourages Christians to be "Above & Beyond" individuals, suggesting that this principle can positively impact personal, professional, and spiritual aspects of life.

- Good Christians do what is required and then some.
- Going above and beyond brings unexpected blessings.
- Rebekah's simple act led to significant blessings & a place in Jesus' lineage.
- Doing things for others is doing things for Jesus.
- Despising small tasks may hinder progress.
- Faithfulness in small things leads to greater opportunities.

Don't Wait For The Big Moments In Life:

Encouraged not to wait for significant moments but to consistently go above & beyond in their daily lives, highlighting the potential for long-term impact & positive changes

- Go above and beyond every day; don't wait for significant moments.
- Unforeseen blessings often follow acts of going above and beyond.
- Being faithful in small tasks can lead to unexpected opportunities.
- Communion reminds Christians of Jesus' above-and-beyond sacrifice.
- He gave above what was required of him in laying down his life for us, and he went beyond reasoning in loving us, because the bible says, while we were still sinners, he died for us.
- Jesus didn't wait for us to get our act together to start to love us.
- No, he loved us so that He could put our act together in the way it was needed.
- God is looking for people who are willing to go Above and Beyond for Him.
- God values those willing to go above and beyond for Him.
- When we do more than what's expected, we allow ourselves to be used greatly by God.
- Are you willing to become an Above and Beyond person this morning?