

# **AWARENESS.SKILLS.KNOWLEDGE.**

## **Intergenerational Women's Ministry**

St. Matthew AME Church

Reverend Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor|Teacher

24 June 2023

This month provides an overview of how her

**S**piritual Gifts

**P**ersonality (Presence/Perspective)

**E**xperiences (Positions/Protection)

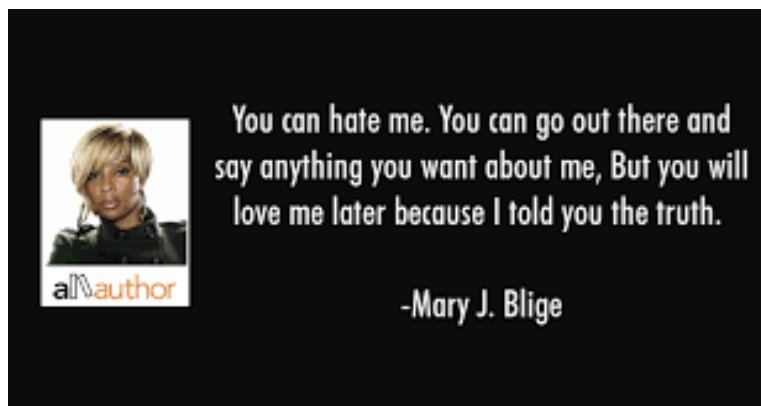
**C**ares/Passions

**I**nterest

**A**bilities

**L**ife Talents

contributes to her special God-given purpose; equipping her to **minister to all God's children.**



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**All Women of the Bible by Herbert Lockyer**

### **The Woman Whose Favoritism Brought Sorry**

Pages 134-140; Genesis 22:23; 24; 25:20-28; 26:6-35; 27; 28:5; 29:12; 35:8; 49:31; Romans 9:6-16

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## **AWARENESS**

*So they called Rebekah and asked her, "Will you go with this man?" "I will go," she said.*

Genesis 24:58 (NIV)

### **Name Meaning**

- Rebekah means "tie rope for animals" or "a noose" in such a rope.
- Applied to a female, the figure suggests her beauty by means of which men are snared or bound.
- Another meaning of Rebekah is that of captivating.

### **Family Connection**

- Rebekah is first mentioned in the genealogy of the descendants of Nahor, Abraham's brother.
- Rebekah married Isaac the son of Abraham, by whom she had two sons, Esau and Jacob.
- The story of Isaac and Rebekah constitutes one of the most romantic scenes in the Bible.
- Abraham opposed idolatry and made sure his son, Isaac, did not get with the daughters of the Canaanites. Thus it came about that his trusted, godly servant, Eliezer (el – lee – ay-zr), was divinely guided to Haran where Nahor, Abraham's brother settled.
- Eliezer prayed to God seeking a sign of divine guidance, not for God's faithfulness, but for his own direction in the choice of a woman of character as a wife for his master's son. When he came to the well of Nahor and saw Rebekah who had come to draw water and in her he also saw the answer to his prayer and quest.
- Eliezer lost no time telling Rebekah who he was, from whom he had come and the purpose of his search. He secured the favor of her family and faced with instant

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departure from her dear ones, Rebekah is given her choice – “Wilt thou go with this man?” Without hesitation, feeling she also was following the leading of God, replied in a firm voice, “I will go.”

### **Her Meeting**

- Isaac was in the field and saw the caravan approaching and sensed the success of Eliezer in the choice of a wife.
- Reaching Isaac, Rebekah, according to custom, veiled her face.
- Isaac took her into his mother Sarah's tent and she became his wife and he loved her.
- Marrying “sight unseen” is a dangerous venture but in this case, it was successful because “the angel of the Lord” had directed the events leading up to the union.
- Isaac was forty, 20 years older than Rebekah when they met, and he instantly loved the most beautiful women he beheld, and she remained his only love.

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### **Her Character**

- She was a damsel, a maiden around twenty years of age “fair to look upon” and a virgin with childlike simplicity.
- She was industrious, for although she was a member of a family with standing, she was not afraid to soil her hands.
- She was modest and meek, frank and open, ready with kindness, had great energy and faith, with graciousness matching her physical charm.

### **Her Children**

- Motherhood came to Rebekah late in life when Isaac was an aging man.
- For twenty years she had been childless but conscious of God's promise that the Abrahamic Covenant could not be broken.
- Isaac prayed that his barren wife would conceive and because his prayer was in line of God purpose, it was sure of an answer (1 John 5:14). [Read Genesis 25:21-23]
- Rebekah and Isaac became the parents of two sons who were destined to be the progenitors (ancestors) of different nations.
- Rebekah became first of two women in the Bible, the other was Tamar (Genesis 38:27) to give birth to twins. The opposite characters of her twins, Esau and Jacob, brought into sharp focus the dark side of their mother.

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- Esau was the first and therefore was the heir of “the sovereignty and the priesthood” of the clan, the birthright and the blessing.
- There was a difference of regard on the part of Isaac and Rebekah towards their two sons that resulted in sorrow and separation. Isaac loved Esau, who was strong. Rebekah loved Jacob, who was gentle, that led to lying and deception on her part.
- Rebekah's preference of Jacob over Esau and her treatment of him as though he were not could speak to the lack of deep love for her husband. We are certainly told that Isaac loved Rebekah, but not that she loved Isaac.
  - Cultural role of women during these times was what?
  - Of note, the Bible teaches in the New Testament, “Husbands, love your wives” (Ephesians 5:25) and elder women are to “teach the young women ... to love their husbands” (Titus 2:4).
- Her record shows that while Isaac was faithful to her, she was unfaithful to Isaac in a twofold way: (1) she cheated Esau, her oldest son and Isaac's favorite out of his birthright; and (2) she cheated Esau out of his father's blessings which had the effect of a testamentary bequest [like a gift made in a will].
- Esau went out and married to ungodly women at the age of 40, seeing little in his mother to admire and respect.

### **Her Chicanery (the use of trickery to achieve a financial, political or legal purpose)**

- Rebekah deliberately deceived Isaac and this was her sin.
- After hearing Isaac give instructions to Esau to hunt venison for a meal for the two of them to show during a sacred fellowship the father bestowing upon the elder son his rank and place, Rebekah's deceitful heart was stirred into action.
- Because of his mother's plan of impersonation, Jacob, by fraud, became the father of Israel's race.
- Covetous of the sacred, patriarchal blessing from her favorite son, Rebekah felt she had to resort to duplicity to gain her ends and in doing so she prostituted parental authority.
- Jacob, fearful of his mother's plot, said, “I will bring a curse upon me and not a blessing.” But Rebekah replied, “Upon me be thy curse, my son, only obey my voice.” Both, however, suffered as a result of adopting false methods to accomplish right ends.

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- Jacob, the misguided son obeyed and in his subsequent career bore the bitter fruit of his conduct when Laban deceived him regarding Rachel (what goes around comes around).
- Rebekah, because of the threat to kill his brother who was forced to flee for his life to Haran, some 500 miles away, never saw the face of her much-loved son again. Esau's heathen wives caused Rebekah to be weary of her life (Genesis 27:46).
- Some justify Rebekah's actions because of what the Lord said to her ("and the older will serve the younger") when she inquired to Him regarding the babies that "jostled each other within her" in Genesis 25:22-23. But God had no need for trickery and deceit to fulfill His promise!
- Ambitious for her son, Rebekah sacrificed the love of her husband, the loss of the esteem of her elder son, and the peace of her soul, for the idolized son whose face she never saw again.
- From God's standpoint, nothing succeeds which does not follow the way of truth and honesty.
- Love that seeks success at the cost of truth and righteousness is of the earth and not of God!

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## **BLESSINGS OVERFLOW!!!**

**July- August Summer Break  
See you in September!**

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## **SKILL**

**Step Twenty-Six: Finishing Well**

### **LESSONS FROM REBEKAH IN THE BIBLE**

#### **HOW CAN WE FINISH WELL?**

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Rebekah did not finish well. Her preference for Jacob affected her judgment and clouded her faith. She **failed to seek God's help and trust Him** with her fears and consequently her life for us begs the question, "**How can we finish well?**"

We have an advantage over Rebekah: we have the Word of God, and we have Jesus. The Book of Hebrews tells us to "run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith (Heb 12:1b-2 HCSB)." The Greek verb translated 'keeping our eyes' as a *present active participle* (word formed from a verb). This means that it is ongoing:

- Building marriage/relationships on love AND faith.
- Letting God carry out His plans knowing they will prevail.
- Trusting that God heals our hurt with new relationships (Isaac grieved his mother Sarah's death until Rebekah came into his life).
- Knowing that favoritism is harmful to families (see James 2:1; 8-9).
- Believing God will answer our prayers but not always when we expect.

Keeping our eyes on Jesus to build and sustain our faith does not stop and restart. It consists of intentional, continuing actions like:

- Studying God's Word through a study method that works best for you.
- Having a conversation with God daily.
- Praying in faith, in His will, in Jesus' name.
- Participating in a church for corporate worship reinforces your faith.

Life events may tempt us to instinctively respond in our own strength or with our own plan, as Rebekah did. Yet when we are continually keeping our eyes on Jesus, we are able to trust, wait for His guidance and finish well.

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### **KNOWLEDGE**

Dear (insert your name) \_\_\_\_\_;

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Today I engaged in a conversation about a woman who got ahead of God's plans for her love one. I know trusting God and being patient with God is best for my journey and testimony as an Ambassador of Christ. I must be aware of tools Satan will use – impatience, doubt, arrogance, for example - to keep me from fully serving the Lord in mind, spirit and heart. Because of what I heard, shared, learned, witnessed, thought about, I want to remember most,

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Blessings Overflow,

### **1-800-799-SAFE (7233)**

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