

March 3, 2024
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
Genesis Behind the Curtain: Abraham – Part 3
Episode 6: Abraham Swipes Right
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

Genesis 24:1-9

24 Abraham was now very old, and the LORD had blessed him in every way. ² He said to the senior servant in his household, the one in charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh. ³ I want you to swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living, ⁴ but will go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac."

⁵ The servant asked him, "What if the woman is unwilling to come back with me to this land? Shall I then take your son back to the country you came from?" ⁶ "Make sure that you do not take my son back there," Abraham said. ⁷ "The LORD, the God of heaven, who brought me out of my father's household and my native land and who spoke to me and promised me on oath, saying, 'To your offspring I will give this land'—he will send his angel before you so that you can get a wife for my son from there. ⁸ If the woman is unwilling to come back with you, then you will be released from this oath of mine. Only do not take my son back there." ⁹ So the servant put his hand under the thigh of his master Abraham and swore an oath to him concerning this matter.

- 1. Integrate the promises:** We must not only embrace the promises of God but also integrate them into our lives, allowing His promises to shape our actions, beliefs, and decisions.
- 2. No half measures:** Half-hearted faith must give way to resolute dedication as believers wholeheartedly follow God's path.

"Throughout the Bible, we see a consistent pattern where God's promises are often contingent upon certain conditions. Obedience, faithfulness, and adherence to God's commandments are frequently highlighted as prerequisites for experiencing the full blessings of His promises."

- 1. Integrate the promises:** *Vs. 3 I want you to swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, **that you will not get a wife for my son** from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living.*
 - a. Abraham began to prioritize the promise over his fears and that now guided his decisions.**
 - i. Deuteronomy 7:3-4 (NIV):** "Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, for they will turn your children away from following me to

serve other gods, and the Lord's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you."

- b. **1 Kings 11:2 (NIV):** *"The LORD had clearly instructed the people of Israel, 'You must not marry them, because they will turn your hearts to their gods.' Yet Solomon insisted on loving them anyway."*

2. No half measures: Vs. 5 *The servant asked him, "What if the woman is unwilling to come back with me to this land? Shall I then take your son back to the country you came from?"*

- a. **Abraham was done with half measures:** Vs. 6-7 **"Make sure** *that you do not take my son back there," Abraham said. ⁷ "The LORD, the God of heaven, who brought me out of my father's household and my native land and who spoke to me and **promised me on oath**, saying, 'To your offspring I will give this land'—he will send his angel before you so that you can get a wife for my son from there."*

i. **Abraham is no longer willing to negotiate with the promise.**

ii. **Abraham was now living in the realm of "full measures."**

1. **Vs. 1** *Abraham was now very old, and the LORD had blessed him in every way.*

- a. **Eph 4:12-13** *So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, **attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.***

Practical Takeaways:

1. **Prepare for the promises.**
2. **Commit to full measures.**

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. How can we actively integrate God's promises into our daily lives, ensuring they guide our decisions and actions?
2. Reflecting on Abraham's unwavering commitment to God's promise, what areas of our lives require greater dedication and trust in God's plan?
3. Discuss a time when fear or uncertainty led you to hesitate in fully trusting God's promises. How can we overcome such doubts and embrace wholehearted faith?
4. In what ways can we recognize and eliminate half-heartedness in our walk with God, striving instead for resolute dedication and obedience?
5. How does understanding the conditional nature of God's promises challenge us to align our lives more closely with His will and commands?