



@Work - Part 2
Sermon Discussion Notes

Opening Thought

Succeeding at work or in business has much to do with our attitude and the intensity of our investment while we are at work. To often people wait to get off work instead of going to work to dive in and serve others. In order to make our companies, and thus ourselves, successful it will require 110% of our passion and energy while at work. Andrew Carnegie once said, "A man can succeed at almost anything for which he has unlimited enthusiasm." All of us need to be enthused by going to and being at work and not merely getting off work.

Key Scripture

Genesis 24:1-23

1 Abraham was now old and well advanced in years, and the LORD had blessed him in every way. 2 He said to the chief 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. 10 Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and left, taking with him all kinds of good things from his master. He set out for Aram Naharaim and made his way to the town of Nahor. 11 He had the camels kneel down near the well outside the town; it was toward evening, the time the women go out to draw water. 12 Then he prayed, "O LORD, God of my master Abraham, give me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham.

13 See, I am standing beside this spring, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. 14 May it be that when I say to a girl, 'Please let down your jar that I may have a drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels too' — let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master." 15 Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah, who was the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor. 16 The girl was very beautiful, a virgin; no man had ever lain with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jar and came up again. 17 The servant hurried to meet her and said, "Please give me a little water from your jar." 18 "Drink, my lord," she said, and quickly lowered the jar to her hands and gave him a drink. 19 After she had given him a drink, she said, "I'll draw water for your camels too, until they have finished drinking." 20 So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough, ran back to the well to draw more water, and drew enough for all his camels. 21 Without saying a word, the man watched her closely to learn whether or not the LORD had made his journey successful. 22 When the camels had finished drinking, the man took out a gold nose ring weighing a beka and two gold bracelets weighing ten shekels. 23 Then he asked, "Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?" NIV

Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the background of the scripture story? Why did Isaac need a bride from his father's hometown? What was wrong with the Canaanites? Why must Isaac stay in the land?
2. Traveling with 10 camels must indicate what about Abraham's financial status?
3. What did the servant do when he got to Nahor, the place where he was supposed to get a bride for Isaac? Why is prayer at crucial moments very important to leaders and people in business?
4. Rebecca comes to the well and the servant asks her for what? Describe her willingness to help - was she very eager or reluctant according to verse 18?
5. What was the test the servant to see if she was the right bride for Isaac?
6. Rebecca's focus was on the needs of the servant of Abraham. Discuss this principle: Successful people and companies make it others not themselves.
7. Her offer to do more than she was asked illustrates two principles: the principle of initiative and the second mile principle. Discuss the meaning of these two principles. How can they be applied to your work or company?

Concluding Thought

Very successful people operate by not just doing what is asked of them but they go the second mile (Matthew 5:41). They do what they are asked and then some more. Doing just enough to get by will never bring us to the level of success that we all deserve.