

Minster Bethel Congregational Church (MBCC)

11/10/2020 - Genesis 24

Generosity



All lockdown services can be found at: www.mbccs.co.uk

"Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back tomorrow and I'll give it to you"— when you already have it with you

Proverbs 3:28

Good morning and welcome to this week's look at Genesis.

Our hymn today is

"Love is something if you give it away"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IclFQj4I3F0>

Love is something if you give it away,
Give it away, give it away.
Love is something if you give it away,
You end up having more.

It's just like a magic penny,
Hold it tight and you won't have any.
Lend it, spend it, and you'll have so many
They'll roll all over the floor.

For love is something if you give it away,
Give it away, give it away.
Love is something if you give it away,
You end up having more.

Money's dandy and we like to use it, 1
But love is better if you don't refuse it.
It's a treasure and you'll never lose it
Unless you lock up your door.

For love is something if you give it away,
Give it away, give it away.
Love is something if you give it away,
You end up having more.

So let's go dancing till the break of day,
And if there's a piper, we can pay.
For love is something if you give it away,
You end up having more.

For love is something if you give it away,
Give it away, give it away.
Love is something if you give it away,
You end up having more.



Our reading today is Genesis 24: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+24&version=NIV>

Sarah had died and Abraham was getting old and Isaac had turned 40. Abraham knew it was time for his son to find a wife. So without Sarah there to help plan a wedding he sent his servant out to find a wife for his son, Isaac. It was a monumental task.

The servant prayed to God and in this time he decided to choose a woman based on this principle. He wanted to find a woman who would add value to him on his journey. Such a woman would make a good life partner for Isaac. Rebekah went the extra mile. Her generosity stood out. Her life seemed to say: I'll do what you ask me to do, then I'm going to do something more.

Are we willing to go that extra mile. Today, it seems that people often say: I'm going to do the least that is expected of me, and I'm going to get the most out of it.

It has been amazing listening to some of the stories of people named on the Queens birthday honours lists. Not the celebrities but the nurse who made scrubs for her colleagues when they were running short and then has made hundreds and has an army of volunteers helping. She said "This doesn't happen to people like me I'm just a nurse"

To be more like Rebekah, we need to keep in mind that:

We can't be generous and greedy at the same time, when we give we shouldn't be doing it for what we will get out of it.

Rebekah did more than what was required or expected. Her generous spirit was unusual. Her actions were opposite the Pharisees whose religion could be measured with a yard-tick. In the end, greed always leaves people feeling miserable. It becomes either unbearably arrogant or incurably insecure. Rebekah teaches us: Don't keep score, just keep giving.

It's easy for us to talk about the great and generous things they intend to do in the future. But if we're not being generous with what they have now, it is unlikely we will suddenly change in the future.

Rebekah started her serving by first doing what was asked of her. Only when she finished that did she take care of the camels. Rebekah teaches us:

We must start by doing what needs to be done and then do a little more. Not start with what will make us look good before we do what is needed.

How easy it would have been for Rebekah to lower her jar, give the stranger a drink and continue on to her home. That would have been both fair and nice. It also would have been convenient. Before she offered to be generous—she must have considered the time and effort it would take; that team of camels might have taken a couple of hours to care for, carrying buckets of water back and forth.

When we give generously, the impact of our generosity often outlives us. In the moment of giving, you cannot imagine how your actions might impact the lives of others in the future. Rebekah had no idea that her generosity that day, opened the door for a marriage to Isaac, and she became part of the line of Christ! Because generously adding value to others is rare—the impact of that generosity lingers long after we're gone. Sometimes, it outlives us both now and in eternity and our rewards will come along the way.



Let's pray.

Dear God,

Thank you that you care about us! Thank you that you care about the BIG things in our lives. Thank you for taking care of the LITTLE things in our lives. Help us to care about the BIG and LITTLE things in others lives, and help us to go that one step further. Amen

Genesis 24:26-27

The man bowed his head and worshiped the Lord and said, "Blessed be the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken his steadfast love and his faithfulness toward my master. As for me, the Lord has led me in the way to the house of my master's kinsmen."



May God's blessing surround you each day.

As we trust in and walk in His way;

May His presence within,

Guard and keep us from sin;

Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.