

Looking for a mate

Once when Mark Twain was lecturing in Utah, a Mormon acquaintance argued with him on the subject of polygamy. After a long and rather heated debate, the Mormon finally said, "Can you find for me a single passage of Scripture which forbids polygamy?" "Certainly," replied Twain. "No man can serve two masters

Abraham's servant was sent to find Isaac a wife. We pick up the portion of scripture where he is relaying to Laban how God directed him to find Rebekah.

Gen 24

43 Behold, I stand by the well of water; and it shall come to pass, that when the virgin cometh forth to draw water, and I say to her, Give me, I pray thee, a little water of thy pitcher to drink;

44 And she say to me, Both drink thou, and I will also draw for thy camels: let the same be the woman whom the LORD hath appointed out for my master's son.

45 And before I had done speaking in mine heart, behold, Rebekah came forth with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down unto the well, and drew water: and I said unto her, Let me drink, I pray thee.

46 And she made haste, and let down her pitcher from her shoulder, and said, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: so I drank, and she made the camels drink also.

47 And I asked her, and said, Whose daughter art thou? And she said, The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bare unto him: and I put the earring upon her face, and the bracelets upon her hands.

48 And I bowed down my head, and worshipped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, which had led me in the right way to take my master's brother's daughter unto his son.

49 And now if ye will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me: and if not, tell me; that I may turn to the right hand, or to the left.

50 Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, The thing proceedeth from the LORD: we cannot speak unto thee bad or good.
51 Behold, Rebekah is before thee, take her, and go, and let her be thy master's son's wife, as the LORD hath spoken.
(KJV)

Here are a few things you need to know.

Are they:

1. Single

Ex 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

This point seems almost ridiculous to mention if it weren't so close to the truth. We often find ourselves when we walk through this Christian having to check and make sure we're headed down the right path. Eph 5:15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise. Circumspectly carries the connotation of "The exact or the straightest".

Illus. of a degree off-

To some ladies there is something alluring about a married man. Maybe it's the maturity that comes from being married. Maybe the man is very successful.

Men, a married woman can also be a trap. How many heard about that 42 year old female high school teacher who had been in several relationships with her male students. She was married and has children.

I was reading a book by Jerry Jenkins and it said in regards to wrong relationships "Do you know a counseling pastor or a Christian psychologist? Ask him how many times he's heard someone say, this relationship is so beautiful, God has to be behind it."

2. Saved

2Co 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

When we look at the passage concerning Abraham sending out his servant it is interesting to note that he didn't want a wife for Isaac from the Canaanites

Ge 24:3 And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell:

4 But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.

*What I'm about to say pertains to this point and every point after this. **Do not** get involved in a relationship with the idea "**They can change**". They should be someone who has already proven, before you ever met them, that they are serious about the things of God.*

3. Separated

1Jo 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. First, we have to ask ourselves "Are we separated".

Illus. about carriage driver-

Pr 25:28 He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.
(KJV)

A city with out walls would be an easy target for attacks by the enemy.

A person that does not restrain his animalistic tendencies becomes an easy target of the enemy.

A person sets standards and has convictions to simulate walls of protection against the attacks of temptation.

Walls also establish boundaries. The departure from the city is obvious when walls are in place. When walls are absent or do not have continuity, our moment of leaving is not obvious.

4. Sensitive

We also have to ask ourselves, "Are we sensitive".

Heb 5:14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. (KJV)

When we look at the story of Abraham and Isaac, the servant is similar to the Holy Spirit.

It was his job to bring the right one to Isaac. **John 16:13a Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.** Here is a test when you get involved with another person. Does the relationship draw you closer to God or does it drive you away from God? How has your attitude changed toward your parents and or those in pastoral authority? Has the relationship isolated you from those who were once your friends?

5. Serving

Eph 6:5 Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;

6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:

Wasn't it interesting to see that Rebekah had a servant's heart. 46 And she made haste, and let down her pitcher from her shoulder, and said, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: so I drank, and she made the camels drink also.

Unamuno, the Spanish philosopher, tells about the Roman aqueduct at Segovia, in his native Spain. It was built in 109 A.D. For eighteen hundred years, it carried cool water from the mountains to the hot and thirsty city. Nearly sixty generations of men drank from its flow. Then came another generation, a recent one, who said, "This aqueduct is so great a marvel that it ought to be preserved for our children, as a museum piece. We shall relieve it of its centuries-long labor."

They did; they laid modern iron pipes. They gave the ancient bricks and mortar a reverent rest. And the aqueduct began to fall apart. The sun beating on the dry mortar caused it to crumble. The bricks and stone sagged and threatened to fall. What ages of service could not destroy idleness disintegrated.

Keep doing right, God desires the best for you. Most of all don't quit serving the Lord.

Illustration:

In 1972, NASA launched the exploratory space probe Pioneer 10. According to Leon Jaroff in *Time*, the satellite's primary mission was to reach Jupiter, photograph the planet and its moons, and beam data to earth about Jupiter's magnetic field, radiation belts, and atmosphere. Scientists regarded this as a bold plan, for at that time no earth satellite had ever gone beyond Mars, and they feared the asteroid belt would destroy the satellite before it could reach its target.

But Pioneer 10 accomplished its mission and much, much more. Swinging past the giant planet in November 1973, Jupiter's immense gravity hurled Pioneer 10 at a higher rate of speed toward the edge of the solar system. At one billion miles from the sun, Pioneer 10 passed Saturn. At some two billion miles, it hurtled past Uranus; Neptune at nearly three billion miles; Pluto at almost four billion miles. By 1997, twenty-five years after its launch, Pioneer 10 was more than six billion miles from the sun.

And despite that immense distance, Pioneer 10 continued to beam back radio signals to scientists on Earth. "Perhaps most remarkable," writes Jaroff, "those signals emanate from an 8-watt transmitter, which radiates about as much power as a bedroom night light, and takes more than nine hours to reach Earth."

The Little Satellite That Could was not qualified to do what it did. Engineers designed Pioneer 10 with a useful life of just three years. But it kept going and going. By simple longevity, its tiny 8-watt transmitter radio accomplished more than anyone thought possible.

So it is when we offer ourselves to serve the Lord. God can work even through someone with 8-watt abilities. God cannot work, however, through someone who quits.