



Title: Ten Camels

Date: 5.16.10

Series: Forefathers

Text: Gen 24

Synopsis: Perhaps it's the greatest love story ever told. Abraham is advanced in years and is determined to find a wife for Isaac. And this is to be no ordinary wife. She is to take her place in the matriarchal line after Sarah. It would be through her and Isaac that God would make a great nation and bless the entire earth.

But where does one find such a wife? Certainly not amongst the pagan nations of the Canaanites. No, she must come from Abraham's own flesh and blood. He sends his chief of staff on a 500-mile journey, across hostile country, back up to Mesopotamia to his brother Nahor's town. It's there that Abraham's servant meets Rebekah and through great hospitality and divine favor, the servant knows he has found his young master's bride. He successfully negotiates with Rebekah's family and she is happy to make the long journey back to Canaan with him to be Isaac's wife.

Although this story has all the makings of a Hollywood romance perhaps the most intriguing element is the faith of Abraham's unnamed servant. He has been given a great task to accomplish, to find a wife for Isaac, the future mother of a nation. He's looking for a Mesopotamian princess who has faith in the God of Abraham, a strong woman who will be able to manage the affairs of a wealthy Bedouin household. And not only must he find her, but he must also bring her back. That means he's going to need a lot of camels. Mesopotamian princesses come with a lot of attendants and they don't like to walk across hot deserts.

In addition to the rest of his entourage, he picks out ten camels for the journey. The amount of provender and supplies for ten extra camels certainly makes the already difficult journey even more arduous. Perhaps his men appeal to him to bring only one or two camels. After all, it was only *one* princess and we could travel a lot faster. But Abraham's servant knows that God is going to provide an excellent wife for his young master and he is not going to skimp on the travel arrangements. He is going to take as many extra camels as possible knowing that he will need each one to accommodate the needs of such a princess and her entourage. He is going to put all the resources he has at his disposal to ensure the success of his assignment.

What's your assignment? Are you putting every bit of energy and resource in the assignment God has given you? Are you trusting that he is going to abundantly reward your effort? The writer of Hebrews says that God rewards those who diligently seek him. Are you prepared to be rewarded by God? Ask yourself this question, "Are you diligently seeking him?" Are you sending out ten camels or just one?