

“GUIDANCE AND MINISTRY”

Gen 24:10-21

When I think of Pastor Mitchell coming to Prescott...the church came open just as my father wanted to leave CA & leave the ministry; God guiding me in Launceston & Johannesburg; I am reminded how important guidance in the ministry is. We need to develop.

I. THE NEED FOR GUIDANCE

A. Eleazar is given a task for God

1. He recognizes that success will depend on making right choices

a. Genesis 24:4 but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

1. Isaac's happiness /the family line/the future of the Jewish nation & race/purposes of God hinge on his choices!

2. 2 basic factors that influence our ability to make right choices

a. **Obedience:** He did what his master wanted him to do

1. V10 he arose and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor. Doing the right thing – in the right place

a. This affects whether God helps us: He doesn't bless disobedience!

b. **Common sense:** Where are you likely to meet women? At a well!

1. Meeting people/witnessing where people hang out...

II. THE GOD OF GUIDANCE

A. We must have the involvement of God in our lives – in doing His will

1. God knows everything! He knows best how His will is to be accomplished

a. Isaiah 46:10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'

1. God knew who the right girl was – and where she would be!

2. We need to have confidence in God's willingness to guide us: Faith!

a. God wanted Eleazar to find her: So He was willing to help His servant do His will

1. Isa 48:17 Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: I am the Lord your God, Who teaches you to profit, Who leads you by the way you should go.

2. Isa 30:21 Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it." Whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left.

B. We need to contend for guidance

1. Eleazar asked for God's guidance: V12/14

a. Psalm 25:4 Show me Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths.

2. This plays out in many areas of life & ministry

a. Acts 16:14-15¹⁴ And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. ¹⁵ And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

1. People God has already opened their heart – they will be ready to receive

2. People God has ordained to be in a given church – ordained that you are to meet them

3. People God will cause to help you: Housing/finances/permits/buildings

C. This is a discipleship issue

1. If this will affect our entire ministry – it's something we need to see at work in our lives right now!

a. Can you point to any Divine guidance in your life right now?

b. Are you expecting, asking and looking for Divine guidance in your life right now?

2. Part of this is sensitivity

a. 1 Ki 19:12 And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

III. SOME FINAL FACTORS IN GUIDANCE

A. Eleazar reveals some other factor that affect guidance

1. Genesis 24:27 And he said, "Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His mercy and His truth toward my master. As for me, being on the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren."

a. **Thankfulness and worship affect guidance**

1. Don't take the credit and thank God for any guidance: You're likely to get more

b. **God helps a man in motion:** I being on the way, the Lord led me...

1. Doing something and in the normal course of life (not just simply praying in his room)