

## **“Eliezer – The Marks of a Servant”**

### **Genesis 24: 1 – 67**

What a remarkable account we find in the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter of Genesis as we read of the relationship of a master and his servant. Throughout the chapter the servant, Eliezer, is referred to as servant, never by name. This would be an indication that he was carrying for his master's business and not his own. Granted, in our modern world the account in this chapter seems strange when a man would send his servant to find a wife for his son. Eliezer was in charge of Abraham's affairs and answerable only to him. The word “servant” is also used to describe the Christian's relationship to Jesus Christ. As our master, he has entrusted a portion of his goods to us to manage for him, so our first concern is the success of the Master's affairs. Throughout this chapter we can find six marks of a servant in the beautiful account of Abraham's servant.

1. A servant is a person taken into the master's confidence and entrusted with his affairs. Abraham is old and dependent on his servant. Abraham was sending his servant back to the land of some of his relatives and there he was to get a wife for Isaac. There were other instructions and the servant agreed to obey and do as Abraham had instructed. He made preparations and started on the journey. In our situation, God is not old nor is he dependent upon us, yet he trusts us and gives up the privilege of going about doing his will. That is a “sobering thought” and it would be tragic if we do not prove true to that trust.
2. A servant is a person who shares his master's faith and methods of operation. This teaches us about God's guidance of his servants. Eliezer was one that God could guide. Why? He had absorbed some of his master's faith and he could operate in the same spirit and manner as Abraham. This is what we are to do as we learn of God our master and follow his guiding in obedient faith.
3. A servant is a person who combines faith and common sense in serving his master. Each step the servant took was in fellowship with his master. He had questions but Abraham assured him everything would work out. Eliezer weighed carefully the steps he should take and they involved faith and common sense. As he came to the village of Abraham's relatives, he had his camels kneel near a well outside the town and there were a number of young women coming to draw water. How would he know the right girl? In (vss. 12 – 14) we see the prayer the servant prayed which basically outlined a test. Rebecca was the first one to come near and she passed the test that servant prayed about. We see faith and common sense combine and they do not conflict.
4. A servant is a person who is zealous and urgent about his master's business. Eliezer entered this sensitive matter without delay. He received his instructions and went on his way and immediately began the search when he arrived at the proper place. He was invited into Rebecca's home and offered a meal, but he refused to eat until he had stated his business. After it was decided that Rebecca would go with the servant, the family tried to hinder their departure. We see the servant's reply in (vs. 56), “Do not detain me, now that the Lord has granted success to my journey. Send me on my way so I may go to my master”. It was all about the master's business.

5. A servant is a person who manages to speak of his master not himself. Over and over in this account, Eliezer refers to his “master”, always making it clear this mission was not his own, but his master’s. We must also make it clear whose we are and whom we serve. The work of Christianity is God’s, he is our Master and we must be about his business.
6. A servant is a person who pleads for success in his master’s name, not his own. Eliezer prayed in (vs. 12), “Lord, God of my master Abraham, make me successful today, and show kindness to my master Abraham”. The success of this journey was all about his master not himself. The servant and the master were one. The master’s interests and concerns were his also. This should be our approach as servants of God, being at one with him. We should not hesitate to ask great things of God, for if we do we can be sure he will show kindness to us for Jesus’ sake.

This old world account is a beautiful lesson for all who call Jesus “Master”. If he is our Lord, we are his servants. May God help us be faithful with what he has entrusted us to do.

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