

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

The Lord is Never Late

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Genesis 24:1-67

Theme: Adjust your timeframe because God is never late.

Introduction: One consistent testimony of Scripture is that God is never late—nor is he early—but he always acts in history precisely when he means to act. For us, however, this is a challenging truth to apply. We often long for the Lord to act sooner than he does, but we must realize that our lack of patience is a criticism of the Lord and his ways.

Genesis 24 unpacks 5 virtues or principles that help us to develop patience:

1. Biblical impulse (1-9)

Through his travels and suffering, Abraham has learned patience. Though the Lord's unfolding purposes in his life have seemed slow, he has learned to wait. Patience does not equal passivity, though. Abraham takes action to secure a wife for Isaac by sending his servant to find one.

2. Divine prosperity (10-28)

There is no spectacular miracle in this chapter. Instead, we find Abraham's servant praying and trusting in the Lord, and Rebekah acts consistent with her own character as well. Yet the Lord acts to bring a successful outcome.

3. Convictional faithfulness (29-49)

Abraham's servant clearly displays his convictions: he believes in the Lord's purposes for Abraham and his family and works to see them accomplished. We, too, face many small moments that test us: will we be faithful to Jesus, or will we compromise for pragmatic reasons or the approval of the world?

4. Faithful responsibilities (50-61)

Rebekah demonstrates remarkably faith in the Lord as well. She serves the servant at great cost by watering his camels. And when presented with the call to leave all she knew to go and marry Isaac, she chose to go.

The blessing her family pronounces over her echoes the Lord's promises to Abraham—a strong nation will arise from this line.

5. Comforting fulfillment (62-67)

Isaac was a picture of faithful waiting, and when Rebekah is brought to him, we see yet again how the Lord is always faithful to his promises.

Questions:

1. Are you frustrated with your circumstances in any way?
2. What convictions need to grow and be stronger for you to trust the Lord implicitly?
3. How has the Lord been faithful to you?