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Now Rebekah Had a Brother Named Laban

24: 28-33

Now Rebekah had a brother named Laban DIG: Why was the servant in a hurry to meet this woman? What pace was Rebekah keeping? Why would Laban negotiate the marriage contract? Why was he welcoming this guest? Why was he in such a big hurry to go out and meet the servant? What would this reveal about him?

REFLECT: What gifts has the LORD given you? What motivates you to godly service? Is being wealthy inherently evil (First Timothy 6:6-10)? Do you keep a light touch on the things of this world?



Things continue at a rapid pace. The **servant hurried to meet the woman by the spring** and **she quickly lowered her jar** for **him to drink** in 24:18. Then **she quickly emptied her jar into the trough**, and **ran back to the well to draw more water** in 24:20. Now **she** would *run* back to **her mother's household** and tell **her mother** and **her brother about** the gifts that **the servant** had given **her (24:28)**. But the most exciting thing was as **he** prayed and mentioned Abraham, the almost legendary relative in far-off Canaan, **she** sensed that there was something very important about **his** presence in Nahor. **She** was eagerly anticipating what **he** would tell **her** family.³⁸⁹ **Rebekah had a brother named**

Laban, and he *hurried* out to the servant at the spring (24:29).

Rebekah returned to **her mother's household** rather than **her** father's because **the women had separate quarters where they did their work, and a daughter would only tell her mother of such things. In addition, the men often had concubines and it would be quite natural that a daughter would feel closer to her mother.** A woman's **brother** gave **his sister** in marriage, which could explain why **Laban, Rebekah's brother**, negotiates this marriage contract.³⁹⁰ Because of this, **Laban** represents the male head of the family and it would be **his** responsibility to go out to welcome **the servant**.

As soon as he had seen the nose ring, and the bracelets on his sister's arms, and had heard Rebekah tell what the man had said to her, he went out to the servant and found him standing by the camels near the spring where Rebekah had left him. Judging him to be wealthy, he was anxious to receive rich gifts, which would foreshadow **Laban's** character flaw. No doubt **he** had heard about Avraham and his wealth from travelers. This was supported when **he** saw the expensive gifts **the servant** had given **his sister** and the caravan that had just arrived. **He** said: **Come, you who are blessed by ADONAI. Why are you standing out here?** Then trying to impress **the servant**, he did some quick housecleaning, saying: **I have prepared the house and a place for the camels (24:30-31).**

So the servant went to the house, and the camels were unloaded. Straw and fodder were brought for the camels and water for his men and him to wash their feet. At first **his** concern had merely been a drink of **water**. But now, as **food was set before him**, the telling of **his** story became paramount in **his** mind. **He** said: **I will not eat until I have told you what I have to say. He** couldn't wait another minute because **he** was busting with excitement. And although it was customary to leave the business until after the meal, **Laban** was just as curious and said: **Then tell us (24:32-33).**