

Until the Camels Are Done

A Study in Servanthood

Genesis 24:46 (KJV) And she made haste, and let down her pitcher from her *shoulder*, and said, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: so I drank, and she made the camels drink also.

The vehicles of the servant of the Lord, that which brought the possessions of the master, these ten camels, were able to drink an abundance of water after a long, dusty, dry journey. Possibly up to 50 gallons per camel depending on the last time they had drank.

She said, obviously knowing these things, while not knowing exactly how much water each camel may drink, she knew what an animal could drink, and still she agreed to water the camels.

The servant of Abraham stood back and did NOT dispute, debate, or try to dissuade her of her commitment. NOR did he reveal his true identity, the purpose of the riches, or his singular mission to her. He simply stood back and allowed her to fulfill her commitment, to see if she was worthy of the mission for which he had been sent.

She did not know why the man was there. She did not fully comprehend the mission, nor did she know of the reward. Yet, she watered the camels...and watered the camels...and watered the camels...and watered the camels. Descending down into the well, step by step, time after time to retrieve 2-3 gallons at a time for 10 camels that drank up to 50 gallons a piece. Down into the well and back up again, down and back up again, until her shoulder and her back were fully soaked with water from the well, mingled with the sweat of her exertions, until her back ached and until her legs burned with fire.

Yet, she watered the camels! ...and watered the camels.

How long? How long must she labor? How long must she water those distasteful and undesirable beasts of burden? How long must she water the hairy, smelly beasts which showed no other gratitude other than bickering over the fresh, cool water? How long, how long shall she water the camels?

With no assurance of reward or even thanks for her effort. Silent stood the servant of Abraham underneath the shade of a palm tree, sipping on the cool water for which she had labored. Never saying, "It is enough." Never offering a helping hand, never advising a rest or consideration for her waning strength.

Still she watered the camels...and watered the camels...and watered the camels.

How long shall she water the camels? When would they reach their fill? Would it be 50 trips, 100 trips, or would it be the 200 trips needed to achieve the full 500 gallons? She didn't know, no one knew, the servant didn't know.

How much water would the vehicles of the will of God require? How water would that which carried the promises of God require? How much water would it take to fuel the means of carrying her into the Promise and Blessing of Abraham and the lineage of Christ?

No thanks, no reward...yet she watered on. How much water did she go down to the well, draw and carry back up to the daylight, and pour out for thirsty camels? How much must she draw? How much must she carry? How much must she pour out?

Did she regret her commitment? Did she wonder if she made the right choice? Did she stop in the darkness of the well and lean against the cold, unyielding, unsympathetic stones of the well and weep tears of pain, weariness and sorrow in the privacy of the shadow beyond the sight of the servant of the master? Did she rest upon her knees on the steps of that dark well, thinking it would be easier to just die down here than to go on?

How much must she draw? How long must she water the camels? How long, how long, how long? I will tell you how long she had to draw water:

Until the camels were done drinking! She had to water until it was enough!!

Until the camels were done...

You feel the call of God, you feel something different about the man that you see, you feel the urge to make a commitment, which others would call crazy!

You make the commitment! You start down into the well, you draw your first vessel of water and then realize what it is that you have committed to doing.

Maybe you just overreacted, maybe you got ahead of yourself, maybe you spoke too soon...yet, you carry on.

How long? How long must we continue to draw water for the camels, for these vehicles of the promise and the calling of God? How long must we labor until we get answers, until we get rewarded, until we hear the mission of the man? How long must we labor as we are?

Until the camels are done!

Until those ugly, thankless beasts of burden are SATISFIED! WHEN that happens, THEN COMES THE PROMISE!!!

WHEN THAT HAPPENS THEN COMES THE REWARDS OF GOD!!

Matthew 25:37-40 (KJV) Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed *thee?* or thirsty, and gave *thee* drink? [38] When saw we thee a stranger, and took *thee* in? or naked, and clothed *thee?* [39] Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? [40] And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me.

God uses servants!

God doesn't tell you when He calls you, "I am going to make you powerful and famous." Or "Stick with me and I will have you preaching conferences and make you such-and-such in the Kingdom." No, God doesn't say that. Our ambition says that. Our pride inserts that into the calling of God. The devil whispers that into our ear.

God calls to commitment; to servanthood. He doesn't dangle carrots, seduce us with gifts, or manipulate our human ambition. He just asks us to work for Him without qualifiers or a list of 'employee benefits'. God very seldom reveals what He wants or what He plans for our life in detail, but one thing is for sure. He calls us to servanthood!

Are we being asked anything different today than what God called us to? Why then do we get discouraged? Pride. We see the cost as unjust at times, ourselves as undeserving of the suffering that accompanies commitment if we are not careful, prayerful and forget why we are doing this in the first place.

Did not Jesus address this?

Luke 17:7-10 (KJV) But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? [8] And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? [9] Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. [10] So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

How often does God say “Thank you!”? Not often. Where do we find the servant of Abraham profusely apologizing for the inconvenience of the task or expressing gratitude? We don’t. If we are waiting for a ‘Thank you’ before we continue, we have fallen from our original purpose.

I am sure that she saw the camels as greedy, ungrateful, smelly, and perhaps ugly. But certainly felt differently about them when they carried her to her destiny. We must beware of how we view our commitments, serving and the subjects of our labors - they are the REASON God needs us in the first place and they will be the vehicles that carry us to our reward.

If we are not careful, entitlement, bitterness, and/or a loss of purpose will enter into our ministering. We must remember that God didn’t force us to do this - He called us to do this. But our attitude and completion of the task at hand will determine the next level of our ministry.

Matthew 22:14 (KJV) For many are called, but few are chosen.

Rebekah was chosen *only* because she answered the call and finished/fulfilled the task of watering the camels. She didn’t know what was going to happen,

she wasn't trying to force God to do anything. She just wanted to help...she just wanted to be a servant!

In doing so, she was offered a place in the lineage of Promise.

Phillip A. Kelley

ecclesiasticalresearches.com

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