

### 3 *The Nature of the Holy Spirit*

Then he said, “O LORD God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham. Behold, here I stand by the well of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say, ‘Please let down your pitcher that I may drink,’ and she says, ‘Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink’ — let her be the one You have appointed for Your servant Isaac. And by this I will know that You have shown kindness to my master.”

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(Genesis 24:12–14)

Let us examine further this story from Genesis and consider what kind of person Eliezer was. He was not the father of Isaac, but the chief servant of Isaac’s father, Abraham. He obeyed the father’s orders, doing faithfully what Abraham had sent him to do. He was not seeking a bride for himself, but for his master’s son. When he arrived at the well in Abraham’s hometown, his prayer for the right

young woman reflected his concern (and ultimately Abraham's) that she be a person who was kind, considerate of strangers, generous, and diligent. These are all qualities of the godly woman described in Proverbs 31:

She girds herself with strength,  
And strengthens her arms....  
She extends her hand to the poor,  
Yes, she reaches out her hands to the  
needy....  
She opens her mouth with wisdom,  
And on her tongue is the law of kindness.  
(Proverbs 31:17, 20, 26)

When Eliezer met that young lady, he did not force her to go with him, but instead invited her to come. She was free to make up her own mind and she did, responding simply but profoundly to her family's question:

“Will you go with this man?”

And she said, “I will go.”<sup>1</sup>

In return, Eliezer offered her gifts, not his own gifts, but the gifts of the father (Abraham) and of the son (Isaac).

### 3.1 ELIEZER AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

All these features of Eliezer are types and qualities of the Holy Spirit. Throughout Scripture, the Spirit does not glorify Himself, but rather glorifies the Father and the Son. In fact, despite common modern practice, nowhere in Scripture do we find praise or prayer directed to the Holy Spirit.

It simply is not there, either in the Old or New Testaments. Rather, in all the Bible, the Spirit carries out the will and purposes of the Father and the Son.

Like Eliezer, the Spirit of the Lord is seeking a Bride for the Son. But He is not searching only in Mesopotamia as Abraham's servant did, but throughout the world: "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him." (2 Chronicles 16:9, KJV) When the Spirit finds candidates for that Bride, He does not force them to come, but invites them. If they respond favorably, He then draws them gently to the Son for, like Eliezer, the Holy Spirit is a gentleman.<sup>2</sup> May God give us grace not to resist or frustrate the Spirit, but to hear and obey His gentle call.

Rebekah could have said, "No," to Eliezer's invitation. She had every right to do so. Who was this Eliezer anyway? And how could she know that Isaac was the right person *for her*? Surely, it was not just about her being the right person for Isaac. Besides, why should she travel hundreds of miles to a strange land when there were perfectly good suitors much closer to home? *It was all so unreasonable.*

And that is what many of us today would have concluded if we had been in her position.

Yet if Rebekah had said no to Eliezer, she would never have known what she missed. She would not have met Abraham and Isaac nor lived in the Promised Land. Above all, she would never have entered the very center of the plan of God for her day, becoming a wife and mother in the direct lineage of the Messiah, the Savior of the world.

### 3.2 WHAT WILL WE DO WITH JESUS?

When the Spirit draws us to Jesus, we like Rebekah have a choice to make. Will we respond, as so many do, “Who is this Jesus anyway? Is he really God, or is he just a man like us?” Or perhaps, “Why should I walk away from everything I know for something I have never heard of before, and which I cannot see?” From a worldly perspective, we may have good reason to feel this way. And that is why Jesus declared in John 6:44, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him . . .” *Without the Father’s help, none of us would ever come to Jesus or surrender our lives to God.*

Nevertheless, just as the Spirit of the Lord drew Rebekah to say “yes” *by faith* to Eliezer’s invitation to become Isaac’s wife, so He is drawing us today to say “yes” and not “no” to the Father’s gracious call upon our lives. Will we allow the Spirit, in similar fashion, to open our eyes *by faith* to see Jesus for all that He is, the gracious King of heaven and earth who became a man like us, God come in the flesh? Will we let ourselves be touched by the reality that the all-powerful Creator of the universe loved us enough to freely give His life on the cross for our salvation? His desire is to draw us away from the vanity of this fallen world and into new, eternal, and abundant life.

If anything here is unreasonable, *it is that Jesus should die for wretched sinners like us.* Who are we that He should love us so? Yet as Romans 5:8 declares, “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Is it then unreasonable that the One who gave His all for us should ask us to give our all to Him? Will we say now, as Rebekah said to Eliezer,

“I will go with this Man,” taking Jesus as our Savior and Lord, and one day as our Husband at the wedding feast of the Lamb? Or will we resist the gentle call of the Holy Spirit, thereby refusing the kindest, richest invitation ever given to any man or woman?

There is a beautiful hymn that I heard years ago as a young man. It was recorded informally on a simple cassette tape by Calvin Marsh of the New York Metropolitan Opera. I have never been able to discover where the hymn came from or who composed it, but its theme has echoed down through the years in my heart and mind:

Jesus, my Savior, Thou art coming from  
heaven,  
Coming to catch me away for Thy Bride,  
Listen, my soul, and be praying and working,  
Trusting the Spirit to guide,  
Watching and waiting in anticipation,  
Sweet occupation, all other beside,  
Let me but rest in Thy unfailling promise,  
Soon I shall be at Thy side.

Jesus, Thou hast given me garments of  
beauty,  
Fashioned by angels of glory divine,  
Some day I'll wear them when rapt in Thy  
presence,  
And in Thy likeness I'll shine,  
Lover of me, Thou hast chosen Thy hand-  
maid,  
Unworthy this condescension of Thine,  
But I shall one day with unfettered spirit