

Reading

Genesis 24: 48–51. 58–67

Isaac loved Rebekah, and so he was consoled for the loss of his mother.

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Abraham's servant said to Laban,

48 'I blessed the Lord, God of my master Abraham,
who had so graciously led me to choose
the daughter of my master's brother for his son.

49 Now tell me whether you are prepared
to show kindness and goodness to my master;
if not, say so, and I shall know what to do.'

50 Laban and Bethuel replied,

'This is from the Lord; it is not in our power to say yes or no to you.

51 Rebekah is there before you. Take her and go;
and let her become the wife of your master's son,
as the Lord has decreed.'

58 They called Rebekah and asked her,

'Do you want to leave with this man?'

'I do,' she replied.

59 Accordingly they let their sister Rebekah go, with her nurse,
and Abraham's servant and his men.

60 They blessed Rebekah in these words:

'Sister of ours, increase to thousands and tens of thousands!
May your descendants gain possession
of the gates of their enemies!'

61 Rebekah and her servants stood up, mounted the camels,
and followed the man.

The servant took Rebekah and departed.

62 Isaac, who lived in the Negeb,
had meanwhile come into the wilderness of the well of Lahai Roi.
63 Now Isaac went walking in the fields as evening fell,
and looking up saw camels approaching.

64 And Rebekah looked up and saw Isaac.
She jumped down from her camel,
65 and asked the servant,
'Who is that man walking through the fields to meet us?'
The servant replied, 'That is my master';
then she took her veil and hid her face.

66 The servant told Isaac the whole story,
67 and Isaac led Rebekah into his tent and made her his wife;
and he loved her.
And so Isaac was consoled for the loss of his mother.

The word of the Lord.

Looking at the Text

M O-3 Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67

Isaac loved Rebekah, and so he was consoled for the loss of his mother.

The Book of Genesis

Genesis is the first book of the Bible. Some have called it the book of beginnings, for it starts with the stories of the beauty and goodness of Creation. It continues with God's plan for saving and blessing people, with stories of people being presented with opportunities, to choose between the bad or the good, to demonstrate faith when others around think they are mad, to believe in God's promises when it seems impossible, to make choices to forgive and to trust. Perhaps one of these stories might speak to you about opportunities and choices you make as a couple, which lead to great blessings in your life, for example, choosing to get married according to the rites of the Catholic Church.

In this passage, we hear the story of the love between Isaac and Rebekah. Isaac was a miracle child, born to Sarah and Abraham when both parents were very old. After his father, he was a man of faith, and God worked through him in spite of, or even because of, his shortcomings. Rebekah, although full of initiative, isn't always wise, and tries to justify the things she chooses to do. However, in this extract of the story, we see how the two are destined for one another in love.

Reflecting on Scripture together

Use the 'Reflecting on Scripture together — a simple way' in the introduction 'Choosing your Wedding readings'.

Further Reflection

Following the 'slow reading' process, here are some questions for further reflection:

- In what ways do you feel 'destined' for each other — how did you know he or she was 'the one'? When, where, how did you meet? Remind yourselves of the stories, and how you felt, and how this encounter has led you to engagement and preparation for marriage. What do you think are the most important things about a married relationship?
- What do you particularly like about this reading? Why might it be suitable for your wedding?

Note about the Reading

M = this indicates that this is a reading which speaks explicitly about Marriage. One of the chosen readings must be taken from those which are about Marriage.