

פרשת חיי שרה / Parashat Chayei Sarah

Shabbat Cheshvan 27, 5770, November 14, 2009
32:1-32:52 MATSATI.COM / Rightly Dividing The Word of G-d
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Communication

השבועות הזה קוראים / This Week's Reading

תורה: Genesis 23:1-25:18
הפטרה: 1 Kings 1:1-31
הברית: Matthew 1:1-17, 1 Corinthians 15:50-57
החדשה

10 This week's Parsha, Parashat Chayei Sarah, consists of (i) Sarah's death and burial, (ii) finding a wife for Yitzchak (Isaac), (iii) Eliezer meets Rebekah, (iv) Avraham marries Keturah, and (v) Abraham dies. While reading through the parsha, I had never noticed this before about the way the Bible describes Yitzchak and Rebekah meet, very briefly: *"The servant told Yitzchak all the things he had done. Then Yitzchak brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and he took Rebekah, and she became his wife..."* This description seems short, simple, and to the point and exhibits a lack of emotional intimacy. What is portrayed in the text is that very little communication occurred between Yitzchak and Rebekah (no details are given outside of this) prior to their consummating the marriage. Even though this was an arranged marriage, neither the parents (Avraham) nor Yitzchak really knew her, Rebekah was a stranger or an acquaintance. For us today, arranged marriages may seem strange but, have you ever considered that your relationship with G-d might be characterized more as an acquaintance than a relationship?

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בראשית 24:62-67

62 וַיֵּלֶךְ: וַיִּצְחָק בָּא מִפּוֹא בְּאֵר לַחַי רֹאִי וְהוּא יוֹשֵׁב בְּאֵרֶן
63 הַנְּגֹב: וַיֵּצֵא יִצְחָק לְשׁוּחַ בְּשָׂדֵה לַפְּנוֹת עֶרֶב וַיֵּשֶׂא עֵינָיו
64 וַיֵּרָא וְהִנֵּה גַמְלִים בָּאִים: וַתִּשָּׂא רִבְקָה אֶת־עֵינֶיהָ וַתֵּרָא
65 אֶת־יִצְחָק וַתִּפֹּל מֵעַל הַגָּמֶל: וַתֹּאמֶר אֶל־הָעֶבֶד
מִי־הָאִישׁ הַלְּזֶה הַחֵלֶךְ בְּשָׂדֵה לְקָרְאֵתָנוּ וַיֹּאמֶר הָעֶבֶד
66 הוּא אֲדֹנָי וַתִּקַּח הַצִּעִירָה וַתִּתְּקַם: וַיִּסְפֹּר הָעֶבֶד לְיִצְחָק
67 אֵת כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה: וַיָּבֵאָה יִצְחָק הָאֵהֳלָה
שָׂרָה אִמּוֹ וַיִּקַּח אֶת־רִבְקָה וַתְּהַיָּרְלוּ לְאִשָּׁה וַיֵּאֱהָבָהּ
וַיִּנְחָם יִצְחָק אַחֲרֵי אִמּוֹ:

Bereshit / Genesis 24:62-67
24:62 Now Isaac had come from going to Beer-lahai-roi; for he was living in the Negev. 24:63 Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening; and he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, camels were coming. 24:64 Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from the camel. 24:65 She said to the servant, 'Who is that man walking in the field to meet us?' And the servant said, 'He is my master.' Then she took her veil and covered herself. 24:66 The servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. 24:67 Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and he took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her; thus Isaac was comforted after his mother's death. (NASB)

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Whether a relationship sinks or swims depends upon how well we communicate. In other words, how well we say what we mean and understand what we hear. Now the details on how Yitzchak and Rebekah communicated may

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not have been important enough to include in the telling of the scriptures, however, communication is one of the most important skills we can acquire for a successful relationship, and even more importantly, our relationship with G-d and being able to talk to Him and listen to what He is trying to tell us.

35 As you know, everyone interprets life from a composite of unique insights and perceptions based upon their life experiences. This means that each of us looks at life slightly differently. Learning to understand and look at life through the lenses of another is the explicit reason that G-d gave us His Scriptures, to help us to understand life through His lenses. As we read further in the Torah text on Jacob and Esau, it becomes clear that Rebekah and Yitzchak really did not communicate very well. What we can take away from this week's parsha is to begin thinking about our relationship with G-d and how our relationship is improved by our through faith in Yeshua the Messiah.

40 I have heard and you have heard it said over and over again the first step is to believe in Yeshua and you will be saved and then you will be in a relationship with G-d. Now that is true, but is that all there is to having a relationship with the Lord? The establishment of a personal relationship with someone here on earth requires us to actually spend time, interact, and share our experiences with that someone and including listening in order to grow emotionally together. Since we worship the living G-d, have you taken this kind of approach in your relationship with Him? If we take a moment to think about this, Yeshua took the painful lengths of dying upon the cross to enable us to draw near to the Lord. Similarly, are you taking the time and going the lengths to draw near to him? Have you heard from the Lord in your life today?

55 ***John 3:32-36***
3:32 "What He has seen and heard, of that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony. 3:33 "He who has received His testimony has set his seal to this, that God is true. 3:34 "For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure. 3:35 "The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. 3:36 "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." (NASB)

60 The scriptures say that the Father loves the Son (Yeshua) and has placed everything into his hands. Whoever trusts in the Son enters into a relationship with G-d that is eternal. *"He who believes in the Son has eternal life;"* this relationship is characterized by wellness, growth, love, loyalty, respect, patience, etc and whoever rejects the Son will not experience this at all. The description of an eternal relationship requires us to be active participants in our relationship. What all of this means, pure and simple, is that Yeshua became a substitute for you; standing in your place before G-d for the moral wrong you have done in your life, and cleared the way to G-d for you. Faith in Yeshua clears the way and removes any obstacle that may be in the way in approaching the Lord. Now that each of us has a way to draw near to the Lord in a truly unique way, isn't it time to begin living, striving, and going to lengths to improve your relationship with Him?

80 The scriptures seem to indicate that Yitzchak hardly knew Rebekah and he
took her to be his wife and consummated the marriage. There didn't appear to be
any form of relationship that was developed between them prior to their being
intimate and later on in the Torah this point becomes clear as Rebekah and
Yitzchak do not appear to communicate well, for example, both had different
plans for their sons Yitzchak and Esau. I think this should be a lesson to us; we
absolutely cannot take this kind of approach in our relationship with G-d. We are
85 going to spend an eternity with the Lord, we need to begin to have a deep,
intimate, and authentic relationship with Him and that means real communication.
The first step is indeed to let the Lord into your life by believing and trusting in
Yeshua the Messiah. The next step is to begin to draw near to the Lord by
studying His Holy Word, walking in His ways, and begin listening for His voice.
90 If you have some difficulty, one way to begin is to ask yourself two questions (i)
what does this situation, problem, or event look or feel like from G-d's
perspective and (ii) how is His perception different than mine? Taking these
questions along with the Bible, we can properly put on G-d's lenses and begin the
process of communication. Communicating with the Lord, taking the time to sit
95 still each day, you will begin to see the Lord speaking to you in countless ways.
There are three main types of communication (i) written communication (the
Bible), (ii) verbal communication (prayer) and (iii) non-verbal communication
(the spirit). I want you to know that I struggle to spend enough time in the Word
of G-d, I think we all do. Nevertheless, we all need to strive to continue on in
100 drawing near to the Lord. Let's start by renewing our commitment to the Lord
right now.

Heavenly Father,

105 I want to begin a deeper and more intimate relationship with you in my
life. Help me to set the priorities in my life straight so that I can begin placing
You ahead of the things that would take away from time spent communicating,
learning, and hearing what You have to say to me. I no longer want to be a
believer that is in word only, I want to be a believer in the deeds that I do and be
110 as the psalmist says in *Psalms 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the
meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my
redeemer.* Today Lord I recommit myself to You. Help me to begin living my
life to be a blessing to You and to others. Help me Lord to be more like Your Son
Yeshua. I pray all of these things in Yeshua's name.

115 Amen.

120 **Be Blessed in Yeshua our Messiah!**

הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:
Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,
125 "Yeshua" King Messiah forever and ever