



Are You in The Way?

The story of Abraham's servant finding a wife for Isaac is an amazing testimony of God's providential guidance. Although many applications can be made when considering this Genesis 24 account, I would like to mention a few ways in which it applies to missions. We must always be looking to the future in order to know how God wants to use us in fulfilling the Great Commission. If we are going to be effectively used by God in missions, it is imperative that we are presently "in the way" so that in the future we can say, "the LORD led me" (Genesis 24:27). In order to know whether or not we are "in the way," I would like to suggest three questions that should be asked.

The first question is—**ARE WE FOLLOWING GOD'S GENERAL PLAN?** Abraham's servant headed toward Mesopotamia because he knew that was Abraham's *country* and that was where he would find Abraham's *kindred* (Genesis 24:4, 10). The servant had a clear understanding of his task and was following the general will of his master.

He went in the right direction in order to accomplish the mission he had been given. Being on the right path involves a clear understanding of our task and faithfulness in the "basics" of the Christian life. Things such as daily devotions, regular church attendance, dedicated service within the local church, tithing, giving to missions, soul winning, etc., enable us to clearly understand and effectively accomplish the mission we have been given. Jesus commanded us to "Go...into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). If we are going to glorify God through obedience to that commission, it is imperative that we be *steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the "basic" work of the Lord* (1 Corinthians 15:58). We must follow the Lord's general plan for our lives by staying on the path that He has clearly given us to follow. Obviously, if we are not following God's general plan, we are not "in the way."



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Another question to be asked is—**ARE WE FULFILLING OUR RESPONSIBILITY IN PRAYER?** Knowing that the task of finding a bride for Isaac was beyond his human capabilities, Abraham's servant prayed for God's direction and blessing (Genesis 24:10–14). Preaching the Gospel to over seven billion people cannot be accomplished in our own strength. This is something that must be bathed in

prayer. We must have God's guidance and blessing as we seek to accomplish the goal of worldwide evangelization. Jesus gave us one specific prayer request concerning the Great Commission—more laborers. In Luke 10:2 Jesus said, "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." Being "in the way" involves regularly taking this prayer request to the Throne of Grace. Praying for more missionaries will give us a burden for the great need in God's harvest field. As we pray, God may call on us to be one of the laborers He wants to work in a particular area of the world. If God calls us to full-time missions while we are praying for more missionaries and while we are burdened about the harvest, then surrendering to that call will just be the next reasonable step in following God's plan. Prayer functions as a spiritual GPS, giving turn-by-turn directions "in the way."

One final question that should be considered is—**ARE WE FELLOWSHIPING WITH THE RIGHT PEOPLE?** After arriving in Mesopotamia, Abraham's servant went to the place where he could find a potential wife—at the well. Genesis 24:11 states that the servant *made his camels to kneel down without the city by a well of water at the time of the evening, even the time that women go out to draw water*. It stands to reason that most of the women who would come to that well would be industrious by nature since they were involved in fulfilling one of the more significant household responsibilities. The people we are with serve as a great indicator as to whether or not we are "in the way." We need to be around God's people. Proverbs 27:17 reminds us that *iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend*. Additionally, we are exhorted to *consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works* (Hebrews 10:24). The best place for this to happen is within the local church. After the exhortation in Hebrews 10:24, the writer of Hebrews reminds us not to forsake *the assembling of ourselves together*. We are to be *exhorting one another: and so much the more, as we see the day approaching* (Hebrews 10:25). Being around the kind of people who will encourage and help us in fulfilling God's will is a critical part of making sure we are—and remain—"in the way."

Abraham's servant set out on a mission that could not be accomplished apart from a miracle. No doubt, the job of finding a wife for Isaac seemed like an overwhelming responsibility. However, he had a **PLAN**, he **PRAYED**, and he was among the right **PEOPLE**. As a result, he was able to **PRAISE** God for what had been accomplished (Genesis 24:26–27). As Christians we must always be ready to fulfill whatever task God asks us to do within His harvest field. There may be times when the job He has given to us seems to be nothing short of impossible. Nonetheless, as we follow God's **PLAN** and **PRAY** and surround ourselves with the right **PEOPLE**, God will make the impossible possible. As a result, our testimony of **PRAISE** will be "I being in the way, the LORD led me" (Genesis 24:27). **W**