Ring of Truth daily devotion

Ring of Truth provides 366 daily 'proofs' that the Bible is consistent throughout from Genesis to Revelation and relevant for our lives today!

12 January

Genesis 24:4

"... but [you] will go to my [old] country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac."

History is more about morals than money, values than victories, relationships than riches. Abraham had learnt a great deal about life, his values and himself by the time Sarah died.

He had seen ***"Bad company corrupts good character"*** (1 Corinthians 15:33). He had witnessed how easily people adopt the local customs, especially if they are tantalisingly immoral. He knew how weak men are, and how particularly susceptible they are to women, especially immoral women.

He is too old to travel now, so he sends his top servant on the greatest mission of his life - to find a wife for Isaac. Yes, it is to be an arranged marriage - but like all the best marriages, it was arranged in Heaven.

How do I know? Because Eliezer prayed and God answered.

I'm sure Abraham had talked to God about it often but now his servant was to become involved. He had already learnt that God is a good God and a miracle-working God who had Abraham's best interests at heart.

He was on a mission that was 'way over his head' so he consulted the only One who could help him. God - true to form - didn't disappoint him. He never disappoints anyone who earnestly seeks Him, His will and His purposes. May I encourage you to read the whole chapter, as it reveals the whole beautiful story - it is well worth reading?

For now, however, can I challenge you? What are your life's values? Take time to think about this issue - it is one of the most important things you will ever do. Don't brush over it. Don't go on without having identified them. Write them down - don't just think them or give them mental assent. Make yourself accountable. Where in the sand will you draw the line on compromise?

What are your values when it comes to money?
What are the values you hold in business?
What are the values you hold regarding your wife, your marriage, and your children's education at home and at school?
What are your values regarding leisure activities, T.V./film/video watching, PlayStation and computer games?
What are your values about eating, drinking and socialising?
What are your values regarding friendships and relationships?
What are your values regarding ministry?

Please take time out to work these out on paper. Justify them in the light of the Bible and the Holy Spirit. God is interested in your character more than anything else. He wants us to become more and more like Jesus.

Lastly, what set of values will you pass on to the next generation? What are you doing to teach them to your children so that they follow them, live by them and want to pass them on to their children?

Remember *and beware* - they learn more *by watching* than they do *by listening*.

What about the spouse(s) for your child/children? Do you care who they are? Do you pray for them? Abraham was fussy about who Isaac would marry - we should have the same care.

Please don't gloss over this. Work it through and work it out.