

## FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 9, 2017



*THE LESSON* **Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67**

<sup>34</sup>The man said, "I am Abraham's servant. <sup>35</sup>The LORD has richly blessed my master, has made him a great man, and has given him flocks, cattle, silver, gold, men servants, women servants, camels, and donkeys. <sup>36</sup>My master's wife Sarah gave birth to a son for my master in her old age, and he's given him everything he owns. <sup>37</sup>My master made me give him my word: 'Don't choose a wife for my son from the Canaanite women, in whose land I'm living. <sup>38</sup>No, instead, go to my father's household and to my relatives and choose a wife for my son.' . . .

<sup>42</sup>"Today I arrived at the spring, and I said, 'LORD, God of my master Abraham, if you wish to make the trip I'm taking successful, <sup>43</sup>when I'm standing by the spring and the young woman who comes out to draw water and to whom I say, "Please give me a little drink of water from your jar," <sup>44</sup>and she responds to me, "Drink, and I will draw water for your camels too," may she be the woman the LORD has selected for my master's son.' <sup>45</sup>Before I finished saying this to myself, Rebekah came out with her water jar on her shoulder and went down to the spring to draw water. And I said to her, 'Please give me something to drink.' <sup>46</sup>She immediately lowered her water jar and said, 'Drink, and I will give your

camels something to drink too.' So I drank and she also gave water to the camels. <sup>47</sup>Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' And she said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son whom Milcah bore him.' I put a ring in her nose and bracelets on her arms. <sup>48</sup>I bowed and worshipped the LORD and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who led me in the right direction to choose the granddaughter of my master's brother for his son. <sup>49</sup>Now if you're loyal and faithful to my master, tell me. If not, tell me so I will know where I stand either way.' . . .

<sup>58</sup>They called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?"

She said, "I will go."

<sup>59</sup>So they sent off their sister Rebekah, her nurse, Abraham's servant, and his men. <sup>60</sup>And they blessed Rebekah, saying to her,

"May you, our sister, become  
thousands of ten thousand;  
may your children possess  
their enemies' cities."

<sup>61</sup>Rebekah and her young women got up, mounted the camels, and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and left.

<sup>62</sup>Now Isaac had come from the region of Beer-lahai-roi and had settled in the arid southern plain.

<sup>63</sup>One evening, Isaac went out to inspect the pasture, and while staring he saw camels approaching.

<sup>64</sup>Rebekah stared at Isaac. She got down from the camel <sup>65</sup>and said to

the servant, "Who is this man walking through the pasture to meet us?"

The servant said, "He's my master." So she took her headscarf and covered herself. <sup>66</sup>The servant told

Isaac everything that had happened. <sup>67</sup>Isaac brought Rebekah into his mother Sarah's tent. He received Rebekah as his wife and loved her. So Isaac found comfort after his mother's death.

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### THE RESPONSE Psalm 45:10-17

<sup>10</sup>Listen, daughter; pay attention, and listen closely! Forget your people and your father's house.

**<sup>11</sup>Let the king desire your beauty. Because he is your master, bow down to him now.**

<sup>12</sup>The city of Tyre, the wealthiest of all, will seek your favor with gifts,

**<sup>13</sup>with riches of every sort for the royal princess, dressed in pearls, her robe embroidered with gold.**

<sup>14</sup>In robes of many colors, she is led to the king. Her attendants, the young women servants following her, are presented to you as well.

**<sup>15</sup>As they enter the king's palace, they are led in with celebration and joy.**

<sup>16</sup>Your sons, great king, will succeed your fathers; you will appoint them as princes throughout the land.

**<sup>17</sup>I will perpetuate your name from one generation to the next so the peoples will praise you forever and always.**

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### THE EPISTLE Romans 7:15-25a

<sup>15</sup>I don't know what I'm doing, because I don't do what I want to do. Instead, I do the thing that I hate.

<sup>16</sup>But if I'm doing the thing that I don't want to do, I'm agreeing that the Law is right. <sup>17</sup>But now I'm not the one doing it anymore. Instead, it's sin that lives in me. <sup>18</sup>I know that good doesn't live in me—that is, in my body. The desire to do good is inside of me, but I can't do it. <sup>19</sup>I don't do the good that I want to do, but I do the evil that I don't want to do. <sup>20</sup>But if I do the very thing that

I don't want to do, then I'm not the one doing it anymore. Instead, it is sin that lives in me that is doing it.

<sup>21</sup>So I find that, as a rule, when I want to do what is good, evil is right there with me. <sup>22</sup>I gladly agree with the Law on the inside, <sup>23</sup>but I see a different law at work in my body. It wages a war against the law of my mind and takes me prisoner with the law of sin that is in my body. <sup>24</sup>I'm a miserable human being. Who will deliver me from this dead corpse? <sup>25a</sup>Thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

### THE GOSPEL Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

<sup>16</sup>"To what will I compare this generation? It is like a child sitting in the marketplaces calling out to others, <sup>17</sup>'We played the flute for you and you didn't dance. We sang a funeral song and you didn't mourn.' <sup>18</sup>For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' <sup>19</sup>Yet the Human One came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunk, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is proved to be right by her works." . . .

<sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and

earth, because you've hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have shown them to babies. <sup>26</sup>Indeed, Father, this brings you happiness.

<sup>27</sup>"My Father has handed all things over to me. No one knows the Son except the Father. And nobody knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wants to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup>"Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I'm gentle and humble. And you will find rest for yourselves. <sup>30</sup>My yoke is easy to bear, and my burden is light."