

Women's ministry 13: Mixed blessings!

## **Gen 25v20-24**

Sometimes life can leave us confused. We seem to experience God's blessings, but at the same time there are great battles. Rebekah was perplexed (v22– “why am I thus?”, KJV), and we can be, too.

There are lessons in Rebekah's experience.

### **I) We cannot always fight alone (v21)**

Isaac prayed – maybe it was too much for Rebekah to stand alone. Prayer partnership is very important.

### **II) God's favour is abundant (v22)**

An answer – but twins. God's bounty! He doesn't open cracks for us to go through, He opens doors.

### **III) God's favour can lead to conflict (v22)**

God has answered prayer and everything was fine????

No – a mighty struggle within her, and she was distressed. We can experience similar things - struggles within and without.

Reasons for conflict – doubt our selves. Is God really blessing me? That was Rebekah here.

Enemy attack – Jesus tempted immediately after baptism.

Developing character –Lord permits hardship in order that we grow, and call out to Him.

### **IV) God's purposes for you (v23)**

Rebekah probably felt something wrong with *her* (v22). Why couldn't it be straightforward like Sarah?

The Lord has a *unique* purpose for *you!*

### **V) The cry of the heart (v22)**

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Rebekah could have prayed with great eloquence and formality. But instead there is a *cry* of the heart - if you have blessed me, why is it still such a struggle?

She breaks the traditional "rule" of asking God "why?" It is OK to do so!

God is able to take our questions. He is merciful to hear the cry of our hearts at the lowest point of all. We shouldn't be shy of struggling, but nor should we settle for struggling. The desperate cry of "why am I thus?" is not some major theological heresy, but a cry that the Lord will answer.

### **Conc**

Battles and blessing can go hand in hand. Don't let the battles rob the blessing. Cling onto the blessing, receive the blessing with joy. Take the battles to Him, with the cry of your heart – to the One who will answer.