

**“How to Reach Your Dream”**

**Text: Genesis 24**

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Park Boulevard Presbyterian Church ([www.pbpc.org](http://www.pbpc.org))

Oakland, California

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**Pray!**

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I was greatly encouraged by many of you who responded positively to the first sermon on Achieving Your Dreams, “You’ve Got to Have A Dream.” We need a dream for our lives and two of the most important things, the hardest things in life, are --

- Thinking bigger than you’ve ever thought before, and
- Getting started.

This morning we’re going to talk about How Do You Get Started. We’re going to look at Genesis 24 – the story of Abraham’s servant finding Isaac a wife.

- In this passage there are 10 practical steps on how to reach your dreams. They are a process – God’s process – for how to reach your goals.
- This chapter talks more about success than any other chapter in the Bible.
- If you follow these principles, I guarantee they will help you reach your goals.

**1. DETERMINE YOUR POSITION**

A. You have to evaluate your present condition. Do a self- assessment. Honestly look at your own life.

1. If I were to call you on the phone and say I want to come to your house and I say, “I’m at the pay phone. How can I get to your house?” What would you say first? “Where are you?” First you’ve got to know where I am before you can know where I need to get to. Starting toward the goal, you must first say, “Where am I?”

B. In Genesis 24:1 it says, Abraham was now old, very advanced in years. He had a problem. God had promised that through him and his son the Jewish nation would be blessed and born. Yet Abraham is getting old, about to die and he still doesn’t have a wife for Isaac. He says, ‘I have a problem here and this is my position.’ That’s the starting point. ***“Where am I now and what would I like to change in my life?”***

**2. DEFINE YOUR PURPOSE.**

A. Three questions you have to ask yourself here:

1. **Where do I really want to be?** Ask yourself that. Force yourself to think bigger by asking yourself tough questions.
2. **What do I really want?** What do I really want in life?
3. **How will I know when I get there?**

- B. As we look at this passage in vs. 2-4, we see that Abraham brought his servant Eliezar in and said, *“With all your strength I want you to make a vow to me that you will not get a wife for Isaac from the pagans who live around us but I want a girl from my own country, my own nationality, I want her be a relative, of the same faith, beautiful, a virgin, and with a servant’s attitude.”* He covers all these things in this story. Abraham knew exactly what he wanted and he knew exactly what he didn’t want. There was no doubt in Eliezar’s mind.
- C. When you set a goal for your life, you have to be specific. You say, “I want more income.” How much? You say, “I want to travel.” Where? You say, “I want to witness to somebody.” Who? You say, “I want to read the Bible.” How often? Be very specific about it. “I want a job.” What kind? Define your purpose.

### **3. YOU MUST DISCOVER A PROMISE.**

- A. You don’t look at your own resources. You don’t look at your own abilities. You don’t look at what you can do. You look at God and what He wants to do, and you find a promise. Don’t worry about the “hows” and all the problems. That’s another stage. Right now you simply discover a promise.
- B. Vs. 7 is what gave Eliezar the confidence he needed. *“Abraham said, ‘The Lord, the God of heaven, who brought me out of my father’s household and my native land, who spoke to me, and promised me on an oath saying, “to your offspring I will give this land.” He will send His angel before you so that you can get a wife for my son there.’”*
- C. Eliezar went out because he had the confidence, because God had said it. When you know God is on your side, your confidence soars. You know that you’re not just doing it on your own power.
- D. Do you believe that faith can move mountains? God can move mountains and it is through the power of believing that God acts.
  1. Promise books – Find promise from scripture and say, “That’s what I’m going to claim.”

### **4. YOU MUST DESCRIBE THE PROFIT.**

- A. In any goal, whether it is a personal goal or a church goal or a family goal or whatever, the next step is you describe the profit. Every goal must have a payoff or you are not motivated to achieve it. There’s got to be a reward to it. Settle the value in your mind and say, “I’m going to give my time and my energy to this because I know it’s worthwhile. There’s value to it.”
- B. In reaching any goal, before you can reach it, you have to stop and ask, “Why do I want it? What is the reward, the prize, the payoff?” How will I feel when I achieve it?” Visualize it in your mind. This produces a strong desire and you have to have a consuming desire to reach what your goal is.

- C. What was Eliza's reward? What motivated him? God's purpose would be fulfilled. Isaac would get a wife. And Eliza's master would be pleased. Vs. 7 Abraham says, "*So that you can get a wife for my son there.*" And that was a reward for his servant."
- D. **Three advantages** of describing the profit:
1. It keeps you from giving up when things get tough.
  2. If you really have a worthy goal, if there is a real value to it, other people will want to help.
  3. Important: When you clarify the "Why?" God will eventually show you the "How?"

## 5. YOU MUST DESIRE IN PRAYER

- A. Mark 11:24, Jesus says, "*Whatever things you desire, pray and believe and you shall have them.*" The question you ask yourself on this step is: How often do I pray about my goal? You may have never thought about it, but your prayer life reveals two things:
1. It reveals your desires, how important it is to you.
  2. It shows your reliance on God.
- B. Vs. 12 shows us what Eliezar did. "*Then he prayed 'O Lord, God of my master, give me success today and show kindness to my master Abraham.'*" Is it ever legitimate to pray for success? Yes, it is when the success is going to help other people, and when the success is going to bring glory to God. Pray for success. "Lord, I want to succeed so it helps other people, so it blesses me, so it glorifies You."
- C. Eliezar prayed continually. He was constantly worshipping, praying, praising God, giving thanks. He prayed before he went, after he arrived, in front of the family. He's constantly praying.

## 6. YOU MUST DIAGNOSE THE PROBLEMS

- A. Identify the roadblocks, the obstacles, the things that are holding you back. Questions: Why don't I have the goal already? What's holding me back? What's the pitfall?
- B. Eliezar had to make a proposal. He has to go to a foreign country he's never been to, find a woman he's never met, convince her to go back with him, a stranger, to marry a man she's never met. You talk about a difficult assignment.
- C. Eliezar has all kinds of problems. In vs. 21, he's got to find the right girl. In vs. 49, he's got to get the consent of the parents. In vs. 58, he's got to convince the girl to go back with him.

## 7. YOU MUST DESIGN A PLAN.

- A. You must design a plan to overcome the problems in reaching your goal. Plan out a specific course of action. Write it down on paper. Set some deadlines. Schedule it on your calendar.
- B. Ask yourself two questions: How do I get there? Specifically, step by step. How long will it take?

C. Eliza's plan is a masterpiece.

1. In vs. 10 it says, *"Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and he left taking with him all kinds of good things from his master."* He loads the camels down with incentives for this new bride.
2. In vs. 11 it says he comes to the city of Anchor and has the camels kneel down outside the town by the well and in vs. 13-15 it says he set up a test, a goal. *"I'm going to get my camels to kneel down here and I'm going to stand here waiting and when all of these women come out I'm going to ask whoever I feel led to, to give me a drink of water. If she gives me a drink of water and then offers to water all my camels, I'll know she's the right one."* Why? I think because he was looking at her character, a servant's attitude.
  - Rebekah comes along and is a beautiful virgin with character. She passes the test.
3. Then he says the next thing is he'll ask about her family. His plan was to get invited to her home. Then his plan was to share his reason for coming with the parents. Then his final plan was to pop the question, "Will you go back with me?"
4. You need to set a goal and have steps in getting there. You've got to have a plan.

## 8. DISCIPLINE YOUR PERSONALITY

- A. Nothing significant has ever been accomplished without discipline. This includes doing things you don't necessarily want to do.
- B. Question you want to ask yourself here: How do I need to grow? personally? While you're working on your goal, God is working on you.
- C. Eliezar is a perfect example of discipline. Here are some examples:
  1. vs. 33, His appetite is disciplined. *"Then the food was set before him but he said, 'I will not eat until I have told you what I have to say.'" Sometimes defer personal pleasures.*
  2. vs. 49, He disciplines his words; is tactful. He says, *"Now if you'll show kindness and faithfulness to my master tell me and if not, tell me so I may know which way to turn."* He learned to control his tongue. Don't say whatever you feel.

## 9. YOU MUST DEPOSIT THE PRICE.

- A. Any goal there is always a price tag to be paid. Everything worthwhile costs something. Even salvation. Salvation wasn't free. It cost Jesus Christ his life. It's a gift. But it sure wasn't free. Christ paid for it.
- B. There's always a price tag to be paid in reaching a goal in terms of time, money, energy, reputation. Great goals require sacrifice and commitment.

- C. In your goal setting ask yourself at this stage three vital questions:
  - 1. What will it cost me? In terms of time, money, energy.
  - 2. What am I willing to give?
  - 3. Is it worth it? That's the bottom line. Is the prize worth it?
- D. Eliezar in vs. 52 says "Yes." Vs 53 says, "*Then the servant brought out the gold and the silver jewelry and the articles of clothing and he gave them to Rebekah and he also gave costly gifts to her brother and to her mother.*" That's class!

#### **10. YOU MUST DEPEND ON PEOPLE.**

- A. God chooses to work through people. God uses people, and if people are not available it does not get done.
  - B. You'll never achieve very much in life until you learn to get along with others. Success is never a one-person show. It takes cooperation, teamwork, people working together.
  - C. Question: Am I a cooperative person? Eliezar did everything he could to cooperate with Rebekah's family. He spent the night.
- God's word teaches us through the first two weeks of this series, "Achieving Through Believing" that with God's help:
- 1. You need to have a dream.
  - 2. You need to know how to reach your dream.

**PRAY!**