**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Five Principles of Prosperity |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Genesis 24:56 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2195 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Genesis 24:56
   2. God takes pleasure in the prosperity of His servants.
      1. Psalm 1:3
      2. We just need to understand what genuine prosperity is.
   3. In Genesis 24, the phrase “good speed” appears often.
      1. It may also be translated as “success” or “prosperity.”
      2. It means that God’s hand is upon you and that God is with you, helping you to do those things He wants you to do.
   4. There are five principles of prosperity found in Genesis 24, which will be shared in today’s message.
   5. Abraham is the father of the Jewish nation.
      1. He had a son of promise whose name is Isaac.
         1. Isaac is a type, a figure and an illustration of the Lord Jesus.
            1. Both of these sons were sons of promise.
            2. Both were sons of miracle births.
            3. Both were sons of sacrifice.
      2. The desire of Abraham was to get a bride for his son, Isaac.
         1. The desire of our heavenly Father is a bride for His Son, Jesus Christ.
            1. The church is the bride of Christ.
         2. Abraham chose his most trusted servant, Eliezer, and sent him on a mission to get a bride for Isaac.
            1. Abraham typifies and pictures God the Father.
            2. Isaac pictures God the Son.
            3. Eliezer pictures God the Holy Spirit.

Eliezer’s purpose and motivation were to seek a bride for Isaac.

Today, the Holy Spirit is working to call a bride for the Lord Jesus Christ.

* + 1. God prospered Eliezer and gave him good speed.
       1. Genesis 24:56

1. establish your cause (Genesis 24:1-4)
   1. The first principle of prosperity is that you must have something that motivates you, something that drives you.
   2. Every person needs a cause, a God-given goal and purpose for their life.
   3. Genesis 24:1-4
      1. Eliezer had a cause and a mandate.
   4. Do you have a cause, or are you just enduring life?
   5. Beware of vague goals.
      1. Most people do not know what God has called them to do.
         1. Rather than being a definite specific, they are a wandering generality.
      2. How will we succeed if we can’t see the goal?
      3. We have to have a goal in life, and it must be specific.
         1. If we don’t have that, then we’re like a ship at sea on a dark night without a rudder or a chart.
      4. Most people don’t plan to fail, they just don’t plan anything.
      5. Is your goal specific enough that you could write it down?
   6. Beware of unworthy goals.
      1. Many people have the wrong idea about success.
      2. Failure is succeeding in the wrong thing.
         1. A wise person once said that whatever a person does without God, he will either fail miserably or succeed more miserably.
      3. Is your cause God-given?
      4. Does your cause motivate you?
         1. Does it create in you enough motivation necessary for its fulfillment?
      5. Does your cause demand your best?
      6. Can God help you fulfill your cause?
         1. Can you pray and ask God to help you fulfill it?
      7. Many people are more interested in what’s in it for them than wanting to do the will of God.
   7. Beware of unbalanced goals.
      1. We need to have goals for every area of our lives, not just for one area.
         1. Not just physically or financially.
         2. Not just domestically or spiritually.
         3. Your entire life needs to be a life of balance.
      2. Our goals need to be balanced.
      3. There are three questions every person needs to ask themselves:
         1. If you get to where you’re going, where will you be?
            1. Everyone is headed somewhere.
            2. This is not only talking about Heaven or Hell, but in this present life.
         2. If you accomplish your goals, what will you have?
            1. When you achieve what you want to achieve, what will you have?
         3. Are the things you’re living for worth Jesus dying for?
2. examine your condition (genesis 24:5-8)
   1. Eliezer knew what his cause was, and he had to examine where he was at that time.
   2. Genesis 24:5-8
      1. Eliezer examined the conditions of his cause.
   3. We must see where we are at this moment and not just where we want to be.
      1. We must take an honest inventory.
      2. We can’t get to where we need to be until we first understand where we are.
   4. We need to diagnose our problems.
      1. Eliezer had to find the right girl and convince her and her parents.
         1. He had to take care of all of the details.
      2. In our own lives, we have to ask ourselves what the obstacles and roadblocks are.
         1. Roadblocks do not mean that God is not with us.
         2. Eliezer had difficulties.
         3. 1 Corinthians 16:9
            1. The door to the room of opportunity swings on the hinges of opposition.
      3. Problems are just opportunities in reverse.
         1. If there were no problems at your place of business, then you wouldn’t have a job.
         2. The greater the difficulty on your job and your corresponding ability to solve those difficulties and overcome them is what determines your worthwhileness to the organization.
   5. Examine where you are and design a plan to meet those problems.
      1. Eliezer saw his problems, and then he got a plan.
         1. Genesis 24:10
      2. There is nothing wrong with planning.
         1. Planning is not unspiritual, but it is very spiritual.
         2. God planned our redemption before He made the world.
            1. Luke 14:28
         3. To fail to plan is to plan to fail.
   6. Difficulty does not mean that it can’t be done.
3. encourage your confidence (genesis 24:5-7)
   1. Many of us think that we can’t do it.
      1. We don’t think that God wants us to prosper.
      2. We need to encourage our confidence.
   2. The promise factor:
      1. Get a promise from the Word of God.
      2. Genesis 24:5-7
         1. Abraham explains that this is based on the Word of God.
            1. He has a promise from the Word of God.
      3. We must get in the Word of God.
         1. Read the Scriptures.
         2. Joshua 1:8
      4. Wait before God until you get a promise.
         1. Let that promise come out of the Word of God.
   3. The profit factor:
      1. We need to ask ourselves what the payoff and bottom line are.
         1. Why are we doing this?
      2. Real motivation comes from proper motives.
      3. What were Eliezer’s motive and reward?
         1. His master, Abraham, would be pleased.
         2. There would be a bride for Isaac.
         3. God would be glorified; therefore, Eliezer could have the joy.
      4. We all serve for reward.
         1. It’s not wrong to serve for reward if our reward is to hear Jesus say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”
            1. Matthew 25:23
         2. It is not wrong to serve for reward if our reward is for the glory of God.
      5. When we determine the why, then God will show us the how.
         1. What is the bottom line?
         2. Why am I doing this?
         3. Do I have a basis in the Word of God?
         4. Am I doing this for the glory of God?
         5. Is my life built around bringing a bride to Jesus?
            1. Is everything else contributing to this one thing?
   4. The prayer factor:
      1. When we pray over what we want to do, then we will be encouraged as we pray.
      2. Genesis 24:12
         1. Eliezer is praying in this passage.
         2. “Send me good speed” can be translated, “Send me prosperity.”
      3. We must have a worthy goal that we can pray over.
      4. When we pray, the Spirit of God comes to encourage, motivate and drive us.
         1. We’re not doing it alone.
         2. We are doing it together with God.
      5. Philippians 4:13
      6. If we’re not praying about our cause, then it shows that either we know that our cause is not God-given or that we’re not depending upon God for the fulfillment of it.
      7. Mark 11:24
      8. Encourage your confidence through prayer.
4. enforce your character (genesis 24:21)
   1. We will not drift into success.
   2. Eliezer was a man who enforced his character.
      1. He disciplined his life.
   3. Eliezer disciplined his decisions.
      1. Genesis 24:21
         1. Eliezer looked at Rebekah and wondered if she was the one.
         2. He did not make a snap judgment.
         3. He wanted God to affirm this.
      2. He did not go off in all directions.
   4. He disciplined his appetite.
      1. Genesis 24:33
      2. There are times when we have to set aside food, entertainment, vacations, etc.
         1. There is no cheap or easy way.
         2. There is no lazy way.
   5. He disciplined his time.
      1. Genesis 24:56
      2. Don’t waste your time.
         1. God gives us enough time in every day to gracefully do everything God wants us to do.
         2. We dare not insult God by saying that we don’t have enough time.
   6. We need to ask ourselves where it is that we need to grow.
      1. Where do I need to grow personally?
      2. Part of the obstacles we face may be due to something in our character, some lack of discipline.
         1. Someone once said that when our professional life outpaces our personal life, then we will have stress and we’ll bring stress to other people.
   7. Prosperity and success are not “the” best; it is “my” best.
   8. We must pay the price.
      1. Genesis 24:53
         1. Abraham did not send Eliezer off to get the job done without first equipping him and giving him gifts.
      2. When God the Father wants to use us to bring a bride for the Lord Jesus Christ, He gives us the giftedness to do so.
         1. He has given each of us spiritual gifts.
            1. These gifts are tools, not toys.
      3. Everything God has given us is to be used for the glory of God the Father, and we must be willing to release that.
      4. We must count the cost and pay the cost.
         1. There are so many people squandering their God-given gifts and giving away so much and getting so little.
         2. We need to give it all for the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. enlist your comrades (genesis 24:49-67)
   1. Eliezer knew that he could not do this alone.
      1. In order to complete this task, he knew that Rebekah’s parents and her brothers must cooperate.
      2. He knew that he could not do this by himself.
   2. When people are prosperous and doing the things of God, God makes them dependent on one another.
      1. This is why we have churches.
         1. The eye needs the hand, and the ear needs the foot.
      2. God put us together.
      3. People who think that they don’t need one another will not succeed.
   3. We need to ask ourselves:
      1. Am I a cooperative person?
      2. Have I learned to enlist others?
      3. Have I learned to depend upon others?
      4. Have I learned to delegate?
6. CONCLUSION
   1. As we apply these five principles of prosperity in our lives, we need to make certain that it is real prosperity we strive for and not fool’s gold.
   2. Luke 12:16-21
      1. The Lord Jesus told of a rich man whose barns were full.
      2. This man built bigger barns to store everything he had and then decided to eat, drink and be merry for he had plenty.
      3. God called him a fool, for his soul was required of him that night.
         1. Whose would all of these things be for which he had worked?
   3. Success is the progressive realization of the will of God for our lives.
   4. Failure is succeeding at the wrong thing.
   5. Soon and very soon, you will stand before God.
      1. When you die, you will leave behind everything that you have, and you will take with you everything that you are.
      2. Then, you will find out whether or not you’ve been prosperous.
   6. The first step to true, genuine success is to give your heart to the Lord Jesus Christ.
      1. Mark 8:36-37
   7. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   8. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16