

Tough Mothers August 22, 2021
REBECCA
The Mother With a Strong Will

Rev. Emma Chattin, Preaching

First Reading ~ *Genesis 24:12-20*

The servant prayed, "My God, the God of my master Abraham, grant me success today and be kind to Abraham whom I honor. I stand here near this spring of water, as the women of the town come out to draw water. Let it be that when I ask a woman, 'Please let down your jar that I may have a drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I will water your camels' – let her be the woman you have chosen to marry your faithful one, Isaac, Abraham's son. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master. Even before he had finished praying, Rebecca approached the well shouldering a water jar. She was the daughter of Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, who was Abraham's brother. This beautiful young woman, a virgin, whom no man had known, went to the spring, filled her jar, and moved off. The servant then approached her asking, "Please, let me have a drink of water from your jar." "Drink, sir," she replied, and lowered the jar from her shoulder. When he had drink, she offered. "I'll draw water for your camels also until they have had their fill." Then she quickly emptied her jar into the trough and ran to the spring to draw more water for the camels.

Genesis 24:54-58

When they arose in the morning, the servant said, "Send me back to my master." Rebecca's mother and brother replied, "Let the girl remain for a few days- no more than ten –before she leaves us." The servant said, "Let me not be delayed. You see that it is YHWH who granted us this success. Give me leave to return to the honorable Abraham." They said, "We will call the girl and ask her." And they called Rebecca and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will."

Genesis 25:21-28

(After Isaac and Rebecca had been married for twenty years) Isaac prayed to YHWH on behalf of Rebecca for they had no children. God listened to the prayers and Rebecca conceived. The children struggled together within her, and she said, "If this is the way it is to be, why go on living?" So she turned to God, and YHWH said to her., "The separation of two peoples has begun, butting heads while still in your body; one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger."

When the time came for her to deliver, she gave birth to twins. The first to enter the world was red, very ruddy, and had so much hair on his body that he looked as if he were wearing a fur coat. So they named him Esau, "Rough One", "Hairy One". When the second came out, fist clutched tight to the first's heel, they named him Jacob, "Heel", or "Heel Grabber". The children grew up. Esau became a skilled hunter, an outdoorsman, and enjoyed the open country, while quiet Jacob preferred to stay at home, dwelling among the tents. And Isaac favored Esau, and ate of his game, while Rebecca favored Jacob.

Second Reading ~ *from Carl Sandburg*

Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have.
Determine how you will spend it, lest you let others spend it for you.