

# OLD TIME WEDDING

## DR. CHAPMAN'S SUNDAY SERMON

**Eminent Divine Speaks of a Marriage of Old Testament Times and Draws an Interesting Moral.**

The Rev. J. Wilbur Chapman, D. D., is now the most distinguished and best known evangelist in the country. He was second only to Dr. Tappan, but since the death of that famous preacher Dr. Chapman has the undisputed possession of the pulpit as the preacher to influence the plain people. His services as an evangelist are in constant demand. His sermons have stirred the hearts of men and women to a degree unapproached by any latter-day divine. J. Wilbur Chapman was born in Richmond, Ind., June 17, 1839. He was educated at Oberlin College and Lake Forest University, and graduated for the ministry from the Lane Theological Seminary, Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1862. His sermons are simple and direct, so that their influence is not so much due to exciting the emotions as to winning the hearts and convincing the minds of those who hear him. Dr. Chapman is now in charge of the Fourth Presbyterian Church, New York City.

**NEW YORK CITY.**—The Rev. Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman, the popular pastor-evangelist, who is now preaching to overflowing congregations in this city, has furnished the following eloquent sermon to the press. It was preached from the text Genesis xxiv, 58: "Wilt thou go with this man?" And she said, I will go.

This is the story of an Old Testament wedding in which our text is found, and naturally because it is a marriage scene it is interesting. The saying that "all the world loves a lover" is very true, and I suppose is not without meaning the wide world round, but there is something about an Oriental wedding which is especially interesting. Again and again in this Book of Inspiration such scenes are recorded, but of all the Old Testament stories I place this the first of its kind.

If I were an artist I should paint it, and if I were an artist worthy of my theme it would surpass the other masterpieces in the world's great gallery of art, notably that of the Russian wedding feast, which has had admiration everywhere. The heart of the picture is an old man; his hair is whitened with grief which in the past days has taken hold upon him, and the lines of his countenance have been peculiarly softened by the touch of the finger of sorrow, leaving an expression which can only come to those who have been obliged to bear great burdens and endure great afflictions.

Abraham is practically alone in the world, for Sarah is gone. She who had journeyed with him to Bethel, down into Egypt and back again to Hebron, the place of fellowship, is at rest, and in the cave of Machpelah she waits by his side to hear the summons given at the resurrection morning. Abraham was desolate. They had made so long a journey together that their lives were like one.

"In the long years like had they grown, Till at the last she set herself to him. Like perfect music unto noble words."

Above him is God, who has kept His word with him when He said, "As I was with Moses so I will be with thee;" about him the angels who keep watch over him all day and all the night in sleepless vigil; before him the trusted servant to whom he speaks, "And Abraham was old and well stricken in age; and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things. And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh, and I will make thee swear by the Lord, the God of heaven, and the God of earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughter of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell. But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac. And the servant said unto him, Peradventure the woman will not be willing to follow me unto this land; must I needs bring thy son again unto the land from whence thou camest?" And Abraham said unto him, Beware thou, that thou bring not my son thither again. The Lord God of heaven, which took me from my father's house, and from the land of my kindred, and which spake unto me, and that swore unto me, saying, Unto thy seed will I give this land; He shall send His angel before thee; and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence. And if the woman will not be willing to follow me, then thou shalt be clear from this my oath; only bring not my son thither again. And the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham, his master, and swore to him concerning that matter. Genesis 24: 1-9.

One of the incidents of the picture would be the setting forth of this servant. "And the servant took ten camels of the camels of his master, and departed; for all the goods of his master were in his hand; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia, unto the city of Nahor." Genesis 24: 10. One of the most picturesque sights of the East is a camel train. With a peculiar swinging gait these strange animals of the desert push their way along on a most interesting journey, but the picture can only be appreciated when looked upon in the atmosphere of the Orient. I counted 100 one morning journeying toward the pyramids beyond Cairo. The train of this old servant was made up of ten camels only, but they were the camels of a prince. Their trappings were gorgeous, and side by side with Abraham we watch them as they go until they are lost to view.

The next incident is the approach to Nahor. It is the hour of sunset; the day is dying out of the sky. There is really nothing that can be compared with that time in the East, when the day is far spent and the night is at hand. The birds hush their song, the cattle are still, all nature is at rest, the hills are transfigured and the rivers and the seas are like most beautiful jewels. Laden with precious gifts the ten camels kneel just as the women are coming forth to draw water from the well. The old servant as they kneel begins to pray.

"And let it come to pass that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thee camels drink also; let the same be she that Thou hast appointed for Thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that Thou hast showed kindness unto my master." Genesis 24: 14, and the answer comes at once. "And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Micah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder." Genesis 24: 15.

Elastic of step, modest of manner, pure of heart, fair of face she stands in the presence of the servant of Abraham. As the parentage she was the daughter of Bethuel; as to condition she was of virgin parity; as to appearance she was fair to look upon; as to education she was trained

to domestic service. This is Rebekah, the bride of the picture. "And the man wondering at her held his peace, to witness whether the Lord had made his journey prosperous or not. And it came to pass, as the camels had done drinking, that the man took a golden earring of half a shekel weight, and two bracelets for her hands of ten shekels weight of gold; and said, Whose daughter art thou? Well me, I pray thee; is there room in thy father's house for us to lodge in? And she said unto him, I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Micah, which she bare unto Nahor. She said moreover unto him, We have both straw and provender enough and room to lodge in. And the man bowed down his head and worshipped the Lord." Genesis 24: 21-26.

The next incident is the wooing and the departure. The old servant tells his story, makes his appeal, and the text is spoken, "Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go." Genesis 24: 58. And the camel train is moving once more, the family of Rebekah watching until the last camel is lost to view in the distance. The journey is uneventful, but the end of it is more than striking. "And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at eventide; and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and behold, the camels were coming. And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she lighted off the camel. For she had said unto the servant, What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant had said, It is my master; therefore she took a veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done. And Isaac brought her unto his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her, and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death." Genesis 24: 63-67.

Here is a lesson of divine providence. Hear Abraham when he says, "The Lord God of heaven which took me from my father's house, and from the land of my kindred, and which spake unto me, and that swore unto me, saying, Unto thy seed will I give this land; He shall send His angel before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence." Genesis, 24: 7. We think of this as Old Testament history simply. We hear God saying, "As I was with Moses I will be with thee," and we say certainly, but not with myself. Why it is we always think of God's care of the patriarchs as miracles, without its counterpart in our own lives, when God is our Father, everything in our life is precious to Him, and the very hairs of our head are numbered? He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and He is your God. The angel of the Lord is still living. We have grown worldly-wise and speak of impressions, convictions, coincidences, impulses, when all the time it is the angel of the Lord speaking to us. Have you noticed that there were two servants, one winged one in the air and the other in charge of the camels. It is always so. It is by this double ministry that all providences are confirmed. All through life we see it; in the conversion of men, in things common and in things unusual. You say, "I feel a strong impulse to do a certain thing." It is the angel of the Lord troubling the stagnation of your heart. You say that I am impressed that I ought to do this and so, when it is the finger of God writing His purpose on your soul. These are but the heavenly ministers of Jehovah. Look around you and you will find some opportunity for service fitting into your impulse or conviction, and that which yesterday you wondered at as a coincidence fills you with the spirit of worship to-day as you say, "The Lord was in this place and I knew it not." "Life without a religious interpretation is little less than a tragedy," while life thus viewed may have many twists and turns, but ends in heaven.

I find here a good picture of real service. When Eleazar was leaving Abraham he said, "Peradventure, the woman will not be willing to follow me unto this land; must I needs bring thy son again unto the land from whence thou camest?" And Abraham said unto him, "Beware, thou, that thou bring not my son thither again. The Lord God of heaven, which took me from my father's house, and from the land of my kindred, and which spake unto me, and that swore unto me, saying, Unto thy seed will I give this land; He shall send His angel before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence. And if the woman will not be willing to follow thee then thou shalt be clear from this my oath; only bring not my son thither again." Genesis 24: 5-8.

It is the same figure that we have of the watchman upon the walls. Both of these appeal strongly to us. We are not free from responsibility until we have tried at least to win every soul over whom we have an influence for Christ. I cannot convert even the smallest child, nor can you, but I can try to tell them what I have been commissioned to say, for I am my brother's keeper. Oh, for the intense desire to do our Master's will that Eleazar had. His camels are cared for, he has entered the house of Bethuel. He is weary with his long journey, the savory meat prepared for his feast appeals to his weakness, but hear him say, "And there was set meat before him to eat; but he said, I will not eat, until I have told mine errand. And he said, speak on." Genesis 24: 33. Is not this like Paul on his missionary journey. "In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness." 2 Corinthians 11: 26-27. And is it not like Jesus Himself, when He is weary by the well side, hungry with much fasting and sends His disciple to buy meat which He forgot to eat because of the woman by His side. I am sure Rebekah saw in him the great love of Isaac's heart. And when they said, "Wilt thou go with this man? She said, I will go."

Yet there is more to the story than this, I am sure. I know it because I read that what was written afore time was written for our instruction. The great object and aim of the Bible is to illustrate the operations of divine grace, to show the works of Providence in the minute things of life, to show us that provision has been made for the fulfillment of the great scheme of Redemption. God speaks in every way; by direct statement, by parable, by picture, by types, by symbols, if by all means He may make known the riches of His grace; and here is a whole chapter, one of the longest in the Pentateuch, taken up with a wedding story; there must be some reason. The spirit of God would not use an entire chapter to describe the journey of Abraham to Mt. Moriah, and another to tell of the death of Sarah, and another to give an account of a wooing and a wedding without meaning. I think it must be that it is all to illustrate the mystery of the church. In the 22d chapter of Genesis, the son is offered up as a sacrifice, at least Abraham is willing to offer

him; in the 23d chapter of Genesis Sarah is laid aside in the tomb, while in the 24th chapter the servant is sent forth to win a bride for the son. It is at least a perfect illustration of that New Testament story where Christ was offered, the only begotten Son of God, where Israel was rejected because they would not come home. The Holy Spirit, as a servant of God, is calling forth from the world a bride for the Son. This is the work of this generation. The Holy Spirit is the one of whom Jesus spoke when He said, "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of Truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of Me." John 15: 26. One day we shall meet the Bridegroom, our eyes shall see Him and the wedding feast shall be spread, and all Heaven shall resound with the music of that glad day.

I wish in closing to take up the appeal of the Holy Spirit, and change the text just a little bit and say to you all, "Wilt thou go with this Man?" And I refer to Christ as this Man. He is the chiefest among ten thousand. I bid you come to Him who walked with men, ate with sinners, smiled with little children, wept with weary women and died with sinful malefactors. "Wilt thou go with this Man?" You who are Christians I ask you the question, for many of you have not gone with Him, for "How can two walk together except they are agreed?" And if you will go with Him it must be in some better way than in other days.

First: You must share His opinion of men. He was always excusing weakness, always helping the distressed and always rebuking unkind criticism. You may need to forgive the man who injured you yesterday, for He did, and if you would be like Him you must do the same. "Wilt thou go with this Man?"

Second: He will lead you into the homes where distress is tarrying, relieving embarrassment as when He made the water into wine. Driving the wolf from the door as when He fed the multitudes. You will need to give your money as well as your sympathy. "Wilt thou go with this Man?" I think I see Him treading the streets of our own city where distress has gone before Him. There is a child with a heavy heart, and He stops long enough to breathe a benediction of peace. Yonder is a man upon the verge of despair, and this matchless Savior of ours bids him come unto Him that he may find rest. There is a woman whose child is dying, whose mother is on the brink of Eternity, and He who spoke as never man spake bids her listen as He says, "I am the resurrection and the life."

There is a celebrated picture which represents Jesus walking through the multitude. Before Him all the people are diseased, while back of Him as He trods they are all perfectly well. This is His influence always. "Wilt thou go with this Man?"

I put it to all those of you who are not Christians, and bid you remember that it is not an invitation to come to Christ simply but a command, and in His name, after the manner of Eleazar, I say, "Deal kindly and truly with my Master." By His beautiful life, wilt thou go? By His agony in the Garden, wilt thou go? By His betrayal and His trial of mockery, wilt thou go? By His shameful death, I ask you once again, wilt thou go? His marred face and His bleeding back, His breaking heart, His cry of agony, wilt thou go with this Man? He hath trodden the wine press alone for you; He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief for you. It is the moment of crisis in your life. "Wilt thou go with this Man?" Answer, and answer it now as did Rebekah. "I will go." Oh, say it; say it, and the Devil shall hear it and tremble, the angels shall hear it and shout for joy. God Himself shall hear it and shall rejoice with joy unspeakable.

### Seeking the Truth.

Nicodemus represents a large multitude of men and women in the world to-day. He was seeking truth if not salvation for his restless soul. He was so interested that he did not wait until morning, but came to Jesus by night. Some have suggested that he did this not because of his anxiety, but because he did not have the moral courage to come to the unpopular teacher by daylight. If so the offense was not an unpardonable one, for Jesus did not even rebuke him. He welcomes the coming of the most timid, the most doubting, the most unworthy. Nicodemus, like nearly all the world who know anything about Jesus, recognized His moral supremacy. They know He is a teacher sent from God by the same test that Nicodemus applied. But that compliment is immaterial to the Christ. That acknowledgment has no saving value. "Except a man be born again" is the everlasting sine qua non, the absolute and irrevocable condition for a heavenly career. How could Jesus have made plainer the necessity of the "New Birth?" How is it therefore that more than half the world, more than half, perhaps, of nominal Christendom, are persistently searching for some other way. Why is it so? The world appropriates other common blessings from God's hands without demur or question. His sunshine and sweet air are taken greedily and counted good. Millions have tested His plan of life, His way of salvation, and rejoice in the experience. They give us their word that they find joy and peace. And yet the world is slow to follow. Is it a sign of a perverse heart, or a constitutional incapacity to act in one's own interest? Jesus was patient with the slow believing Nicodemus. But He did not have nearly twenty centuries of Christian testimony to bear witness to the truth. That is why it will be less tolerable in the judgment for us than for those of Tyre and Sidon and the generations that have gone to their reward and doom.—Ram's Horn.

### "Purse-and-All" Consecration.

Many who count themselves wholly the Lord's do not count all their possessions the Lord's. Yet either we and all that we have are Christ's, or we do not feel that we or anything that we have are Christ's. There is no half-way consecration in God's service, although many seem to think that personal consecration only applies to those things that are specifically included. That was a very positive truth stated by Prebendary Fox at the Student Volunteer Convention in Toronto, when he said, "There are thousands who will trust Christ with the salvation of their souls who will not trust Him with the key of their cash-box." It has been well said that personal consecration must be spelled "purse-and-all" consecration, or it practically amounts to nothing.

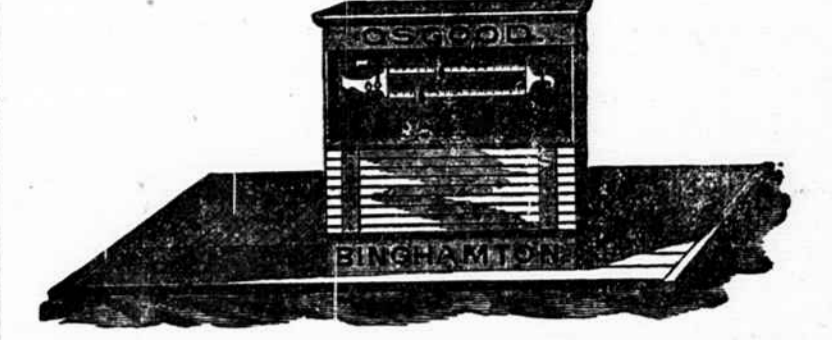
### The Strongest Things.

There are some good things in all men, no matter how low they may have fallen, and every effort should be exerted to make them the strongest things in the life of every individual.—Rev. Dr. Scott F. Hershey, Boston, Mass.

# J. H. WEDDINGTON & CO., HARDWARE.

29 E. Trade Street - - - Charlotte, N. C.

We are leaders in our business, and for that reason we are better prepared to supply the requirements of the trade than anyone.



We sell Syracuse Steel Beam Plows. They have no equal.

## THE AMERICAN MONTHLY REVIEW OF REVIEWS

THE AMERICAN MONTHLY REVIEW OF REVIEWS is commended by Statesmen, Professional men and thousands of others prominent in the world's activities, for its fine discrimination in sifting the actual news from conflicting report and the presentation of current events in their just proportion. They comment on its freedom from daily-paper sensationalism. All men and women who want to know what the world is doing find it an intellectual necessity, to judge from the letters received from hundreds. Its editorials are comprehensive, and labor saving to the busy man or woman. Its timely contributions on important topics are by the best-informed writers. Its reviews of other magazines give the best of their best work. It is profusely illustrated.

These letters will enable all thoughtful men and women to judge of its value to them:

**PRESIDENT** "I am a constant reader of the 'Review of Reviews,' and appreciate it very highly indeed. I think it a very important part of my library, and practically a necessity for one in public life."—*J. B. Foraker, U. S. Senator, Ohio.*

"It is one of the best and most satisfactory publications of the day."—*Charles W. Fairbanks, U. S. Senator, Indiana.*

**EX-PRESIDENT** "I do not have a great deal of time to read magazines, but I take pleasure in saying that the 'Review of Reviews' is among the number which finds a place on my table each month."—*James K. Jones, U. S. Senator, Arkansas.*

"I consider it a very valuable addition to my library."—*Grover Cleveland*

"It is a publication of very great value. I have sometimes found there very important matter indeed which I should not otherwise have discovered."—*George F. Hoar, U. S. Senator, Massachusetts.*

Send for particulars as to how it can be had with an invaluable set of books for 50 cents a month.

**The Review of Reviews Company**  
13 ASTOR PLACE, NEW YORK

## ARE YOU DEAF? ANY HEAD NOISES?

### ALL CASES OF DEAFNESS OR HARD HEARING ARE NOW CURABLE

by our new invention. Only those born deaf are incurable.

## HEAD NOISES CEASE IMMEDIATELY.

F. A. WERMAN, OF BALTIMORE, SAYS:

BALTIMORE, Md., March 30, 1902.

Gentlemen:—Being entirely cured of deafness, thanks to your treatment, I will now give you a full history of my case, to be used at your discretion.

About five years ago my right ear began to ring, and this kept on getting worse, until I lost my hearing in this ear entirely.

I underwent a treatment for catarrh, for three months, without any success, consulted a number of physicians, among others, the most eminent ear specialist of this city, who told me that only an operation could help me, and even that would only temporarily, that the head noises would then cease, but the hearing in the affected ear could be lost forever.

I then saw your advertisement, accidentally in a New York paper, and ordered your treatment. After I had used it only a few days according to your directions, the noises ceased, and to-day, after five weeks, my hearing in the diseased ear has been entirely restored. I thank you heartily and beg to remain Very truly yours,

F. A. WERMAN, 730 S. Broadway, Baltimore, Md.

**Our treatment does not interfere with your usual occupation.**

Examination and advice free. **YOU CAN CURE YOURSELF AT HOME** at a nominal cost.

**INTERNATIONAL AURAL CLINIC, 596 LA SALLE AVE., CHICAGO, ILL.**

## ASTONISHING OFFER!!

For many years we have sold our Whiskies and Cigars to Wholesalers only and our brands are preferred by them, as they are superior to all others. In order to give the Consumer the benefit of the large profits of Dealer and Wholesaler, we have decided to now sell direct to the Consumer our Most Popular Brands of Whiskies and Cigars at less than wholesale prices. **30 RESTRICTIONS EVERY ONE WILL GET THEM!!**

With every quart bottle of our famous 10 year old Queen City Club Pure Rye and one box of our justly celebrated genuine Cuban Hand-Made 10c cigars you will receive: **FREE!** All these 14 pieces with one box of our famous Cuban Specials and one quart bottle of our famous 10 year old Queen City Club Pure Rye cannot be bought for less than \$12.00. We sell the following 14 pieces for **ONLY \$3.97** (including tax and postage):

- 1 extra fine Vienna Meerschaum Pipe, 1 genuine Meerschaum Cigar Holder, 1 genuine Meerschaum Cigar Case, 1 elegant extra heavy nickel match box, 1 pair pearl cuff buttons, 1 ball top collar button, 1 necktie holder, 1 pair sleeve buttons, 1 double chin and one beautiful charm (all jewelry heavily plated), All these 14 pieces with one box of our famous Cuban Specials and one quart bottle of our famous 10 year old Queen City Club Pure Rye cannot be bought for less than \$12.00. We sell the following 14 pieces for **ONLY \$3.97** (including tax and postage):

Whiskey and Cigars alone cost more than we ask for the entire lot. Our Whiskey is an Absolutely Pure 10 year old Rye and our Cigars genuine Cuban hand-made, clear Havana, made in our own factory. These cigars are far better than anything ever advertised before. We guarantee the goods and refund the money if not as represented. **FREE!** An Extra Premium of an elegant Pocket knife with two blades, 1 cork-crow, 1 cigar cutter and 1 glass cutter, if \$3.97 is sent in advance with order. Goods sent in plain package. Write for wholesale Price Lists, Liquors and Cigars, Restonville, Va. Write for order today.

**U. S. DISTILLER'S DISTRIBUTING CO.—Dept. O., 431 North Clark St., Chicago, Ill.**