

"Bargaining for a Burial"  
Genesis 23

v. 1 Q. How old was Sarah when she died?

A.

Q. How old was Isaac when this occurred?

A.

Q. How old was Abraham?

A.

Note: Nowhere in the Bible are we told to look to \_\_\_\_\_ the mother of Jesus as an example of a godly woman. Twice we are told to look to Sarah as such an example (Isaiah 51:1-2 and 1 Peter 3:3-6).

v. 2 Q. What is implied by the fact that Abraham went to mourn for her and to weep over her?

A.

1. He was not \_\_\_\_\_ when she died. Jewish commentaries tell us that he was in Beersheba when she died (in the south).

2. It tells us that he \_\_\_\_\_ her.

v. 3 Q. What group of people lived in the area?

A.

Note: The King James Translations has "sons of \_\_\_\_\_." Cf. Genesis 10:15.

## Starting the negotiation process

v. 4 Q. What was the first step?

A.

1. Acknowledge your \_\_\_\_\_/position among the people.
2. Acknowledge your \_\_\_\_\_.

vv. 5-6 Q. Next step?

A.

1. Acknowledge Abraham's \_\_\_\_\_/position.
2. Offer an \_\_\_\_\_ agreement or nicety or a subtle \_\_\_\_\_ to remain a landless dependent.

vv. 7-9 Q. What was Abraham's next step?

A.

1. He \_\_\_\_\_ himself before them.
2. He asked for communal \_\_\_\_\_. ("Ask...")
3. He was \_\_\_\_\_. (a certain field)
4. He was \_\_\_\_\_. (full price)

vv. 10-11 Q. How did Ephron respond?

A.

Note: This the Middle eastern dance. The objective is to buy something. You start out giving public honor to the one you are buying it from. They publicly respond with honoring you and overt generosity. The buyer says, "your too generous; the product is valuable (a sense of honor in itself.)" A price is given, and it is either accepted or further negotiated until both are satisfied and both party's honor is intact.

vv. 12-13 Q. What does Abraham do next?

A. He \_\_\_\_\_ Ephron's generosity but also by telling him the land is valuable and paying the full price.

vv. 14-15 Q. What does Ephron do next in the negotiations?

A. Ephron couches his response in \_\_\_\_\_, but in reality, he is asking an \_\_\_\_\_ price – probably anticipating the usual back and forth.

Note: The average price per acre was around \_\_\_\_\_ shekels. This was 100x the normal price.

v. 16 Q. What did Abraham do?

A.

vv. 17-18, 20 The official record.

Note: This is the only land that Abraham ever owned \_\_\_\_\_, and it was for the purpose of a \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 19 Q. What did Abraham do?

A.

This is where Isaac and Ishmael buried \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 25:9). \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ were both buried here (Genesis 49:31). Jacob buried \_\_\_\_\_ here (Genesis 49:31), and Joseph buried \_\_\_\_\_ here (Genesis 50:13). The cave of Machpelah (near Hebron) was the great tomb of the Patriarchs.

**Application Questions:**

Review Hebrews 11:13-16. Q. How does this describe the lives and deaths of Sarah and Abraham?

A.

Q. What does this description say to us?

A.

Q. What does this text tell us about living out our faith within a non-Christian culture?

A.

Q. What skills can we apply to business dealings in our own culture?

A.