

Genesis 24:45

But before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah, coming out with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down to the well and drew water. And I said to her, 'Please let me drink.'

Today's verse is from a wonderful story in Genesis of how Abraham sent his oldest, and I would say his most trusted servant, back from where he (Abraham) came from to get a bride for his son, Isaac. It's a wonderful story that you can read in chapter 24 of Genesis.

But as the servant had reached the place where Abraham was from, he stopped at a well and prayed, seeking God's guidance and provision.

† **Genesis 24:10-12** *Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, for all his master's goods were in his hand. And he arose and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor. And he made his camels kneel down outside the city by a well of water at evening time, the time when women go out to draw water. Then he said, "O LORD God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham.*

And, as you go on reading this story, we find that Rebekah came along and met the servant, and she was chosen by God to be Isaac's bride.

But when the servant discovered this and was invited to Rebekah's home to have a meal, "**he said, 'I will not eat until I have told about my errand.'**" **Genesis 24:33b** and the servant goes on to tell the story of how God brought all this together and lead him to Rebekah. And part of the story he told includes today's verse, and there is one part I want us to look at today, which is "**speaking in my heart.**"

People wonder if God can hear us if we don't speak out in prayer, or even if He does, will He even answer us, since we didn't speak it out loud? I believe today's verse answers that question very clearly, because the servant was not speaking out loud when he was praying, but spoke in his heart, or as we do sometimes, praying silently.

Another example of this is in the book of Nehemiah, when the Lord called Nehemiah to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild the walls around Jerusalem. Nehemiah was the king's cupbearer, and after the Lord put in his heart to go back to Jerusalem, he was sad, because he knew that the walls were broken down and destroyed. The king saw this and asked Nehemiah why he was so sad, since it was obvious that he was not sick.

With this question it gave Nehemiah the opportunity to ask the king if he could go back to Jerusalem and rebuild the walls around Jerusalem, just as God had instructed him to do.

† **Nehemiah 2:4** *Then the king said to me, "What do you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven.*

As you read Nehemiah's response, Nehemiah said that he **"prayed to the God of heaven."** And since he was right in front of the king, he didn't say, *"Hey king, let me pray about this and I'll get back to you."* Nor did he stop and pray out loud right in front of the king. No, Nehemiah prayed in his heart, just like this Abraham's servant did, and the results was that God heard Nehemiah. So the king not only gave him the time off from work that he needed, but also gave him signed letters which were giving him permission to go where ever he need to and the king also supplied the timber to help rebuild the walls.

Think of it as you want to go on a missions trip, say to Africa (I don't know why, but it's always Africa) to help build a school or housing for those in need. So you go to your boss, and he or she says to you, *"It looks like you got something on your mind"*, which you do, which is to ask for time off to go to Africa.

So you quickly pray silently for the Lord to guide your words, and for you to have favor with your boss so that you can go. Then you tell your boss where you want to go to Africa and why (Because God had told you to). The response from your boss is not only giving you the time off, but also the company pays for you to get your Passport, the flight there and back home, as well as contributing to the building material for these homes or school to be built. That's pretty much what happened here, in a smaller scale.

Now this is not a formula for saying if you pray silently that all your prayers will be answered, because God loves your voice and wants to hear you speak to Him. After all, He is the one who gave you your voice so He can hear you speak to Him. So we should pray out loud to the Lord whenever we can, but there are times when we need to pray, but the circumstances require us to do it silently, and it's ok to do so. God hears you, or should I say, He hears your heart. But then, He hears your heart when you pray out loud as well.

† **Psalm 49:3** *My mouth shall speak wisdom, And the meditation of my heart shall give understanding.*

† **Psalm 10:17** *LORD, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will prepare their heart; You will cause Your ear to hear*

† **Psalm 119:145** *I cry out with my whole heart; Hear me, O LORD! I will keep Your statutes.*