



## Going Above and Beyond

*Genesis 24:1-25*

God often provides opportunities for us to give of ourselves and go over and above what would be expected. When Abraham's servant sought a wife for Isaac, he asked Rebekah for water, for a **sip, a swallow** (*Gen. 24:17, as this word "drink" may be expressed in the original*). Rebekah didn't hesitate to offer him a drink (*Gen. 24:18, using the normal word for "drink"*). She also offered to draw water for the camels. Water pitchers from that time would have held about 2.5 gallons of water. Rebekah would have had to make at least 100 trips to the well and back to draw the water (250 – 300 gallons) needed for 10 camels (each who could drink 25-30 gallons)! God richly rewarded Rebekah's kind and unselfish character, shown by her willingness to serve man and beast.

Another example of going the extra mile would be David's kindness to Mephibosheth. Not only was David compassionate to this crippled man, but he went above and beyond, promising to restore to him all the land of Saul his father and to allow him to eat at his own table continually (*2 Samuel 9:13*).

The parable of the Good Samaritan also shows a man going out of his way to care for and help a stranger in need. The Samaritan bound up the man's wounds, took him to an inn, paid the host, and promised to come back and pay more if needed.

God gives us the incredible and ultimate example of going above and beyond: He "spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all," and He "is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think" (*Rom. 8:32; Eph. 3:20,21*).

Am I, who have been so incredibly blessed by God, willing to unselfishly, and freely give of my time, energy, and resources to serve others?

~George Zeller: [www.middletownbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletownbiblechurch.org)



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