

PARENTING 102 - PARENTING THE CHILD

Background

Eliezer recognized that Besuel, based on who he was, would look to capitalize on the marriage of his daughter. Rather than looking for what was best for her, the criteria he would use would be 1) who would make the most lucrative offer and 2) which marriage would offer him the greatest connections politically. While Eliezer was offering a huge sum of money and property as a dowry, one of the conditions of Rivka's marriage to Yitzchak was that she would have to travel back to Eretz Canaan, which would offer nothing in the way of connecting Lavan to families that would benefit him socially (since Canaan was so far away).

Therefore, Eliezer petitions Besuel by saying, "If you will do that which is *chessed* and *emes* – kindness and truth – you will allow your daughter to go."

Questions

The Rosh Yeshiva asked: What does *emes* have to do with doing what is best for your daughter? If Eliezer was trying to tell Besuel to put away his selfish interests and put the child's interests first, he should say, "Do what is appropriate, what is right, and put your daughter's interests before you own." But this has nothing to do with truth. So why does Eliezer use the expression, "If you will do kindness and truth?"

ספר בראשית פרק כד

מט) וְעַתָּה אִם יִשְׁכַּם
עֲשִׂים חֶסֶד וְאֲמַת אֶת
אֲדֹנָי הַגִּידוּ לִי וְאִם לֹא
הַגִּידוּ לִי וְאֶפְנֶה עַל יְמִין
אוּ עַל שְׂמָאל

And now, if you will do kindness and truth with my master, let me know. And if not, let me know, and I will turn to the left or to the right.

ספורנו עה"ת ספר בראשית פרק כד פסוק מט

וְאֲמַת. שֶׁתִּרְצוּ תוֹעֵלֶת
וְכַבּוּד בְּתַכֵּם כְּרָאוּי לָכֶם
זֶה בְּהַכְנִיס אוֹתָהּ בְּבֵית
אֲבְרָהָם

Truth - *That you wish the betterment and honor for your daughter is befitting for you. Then you will enter her into the house of Avraham.*