

SERIES: STORIES OF FAITH

SERMON: FAITH THAT WON'T TAKE MATTERS INTO YOUR OWN HANDS

6-30-24

Attention Media!!

Show all scriptures and points.

Introduction:

Announcements:

NSC

COMMUNITY GROUPS

VIDEOGRAPHY CLASS

WORSHIP AUDITIONS

OPENER:

Genesis 12: 1-3 Now the Lord had said to Abram:

“Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you.

² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curse you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Genesis 16:1-4 Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar. ² So Sarai said to Abram, “See now, the Lord has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her.” And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai. ³ Then Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan. ⁴ So he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress became despised in her eyes.

(Explain scripture)

When Abraham was seventy-five years old, God promised him that through his seed, the nations of the earth would be blessed. But at this time, the patriarch had no offspring. Another decade rolled by, and still, no child blessed the home of Abraham and Sarah.

So, Sarah suggested that a child be produced by a union between Abram and Hagar, Sarai's Egyptian handmaid, for such was an accepted custom in those days by false religions.

When Hagar conceived, she flaunted her proud condition before Sarai. Infuriated, with Abraham's permission, she drove the slave out of the camp. Hagar cried out to the Lord and the Lord met her in the desert.

God words to Hagar.....

Genesis 16:8-12 And He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?"

She said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai."

⁹ The Angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand." ¹⁰ Then the Angel of the Lord said to her, "I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude." ¹¹ And the Angel of the Lord said to her:

"Behold, you are with child, And you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, Because the Lord has heard your affliction. ¹² He shall be a wild man; His hand shall be against every man, And every man's hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren."

HISTORY LESSON OF ISHMAEL:

Ishmael grew up, married an Egyptian woman, and had twelve sons who became princes over tribes precisely as prophesied and who are the ancestors of the Arabians. Today, Arab-dominated territories are much more extensive than in Bible times.

History has recorded the warlike temperament of the Arabian people. Historically, these tribes: "live in a state of continual war with the rest of the world ... they have been such enemies of mankind, it is no wonder that mankind have been enemies to them again".

Many nations have fought against them, but no one has been able to subdue them completely.

Alexander the Great..... Even the Romans swept from the west to the east, they were never able to reduce the Arab peoples to a province..

The religious scene in the Middle East in the late sixth century A.D. was in shambles. Both Judaism and "Christianity" were corrupt, and idolatry was rampant. It was into this world that a child was born. His name was Mohammed.

Mohammed, claiming to be an Apostle and Prophet from God, was gradually able to take these semi-barbarous sons of the desert and whip

them into a fighting force fueled by religious zealotry. The movement has impacted civilization for almost fifteen centuries.

Mohammed's system involved an aggressive "bloody-sword" theology. No longer content to persuade by words, "the sword" became "the key of heaven and hell," and whoever died in battle received pardon from all sin and entered into the joys of a sensual Paradise.

Mohammed's heavy hand, and those of his violent successors, were felt in nation after nation. Even today, in countries where Islam is the prevailing political force, persecution against non-Muslims is fierce.

War and violence often seen in the news are not expressions of crazy radicalism. It is Islam in its purest form. And it is a consequence of the sin of Abraham and Sarah...and God's prophecy concerning Ishmael...."his hand against every man"!

WHAT CAME OUT OF ABRAHAM AND SARAH MEDDLING IN GOD'S BUSINESS?

**ISHMAEL, THE SON OF HAGAR, ROSE UP TO BE AN ENEMY OPPOSING
THE BLOODLINE OF CHRIST.**

1. WHEN WE CHOOSE TO TAKE MATTERS INTO OUR OWN HANDS INSTEAD OF WAITING ON THE LORD WE CAN BIRTH AN ENEMY TO THE PROMISE

I have learned that when I am waiting on the Lord for something, Satan usually tempts me with a resolution:

> It can be a thought, or an idea.

> Or it can be a person that presents themselves to help resolve the problem.

Side Note:

Hagar was willing, obviously liked Abraham and was used by the enemy to tempt.

**IF YOU GIVE IN TO TRYING TO MAKE SOMETHING HAPPEN,
YOU CAN BRING ABOUT CONSEQUENCES THAT ACTUALLY ASSAULT
THE PROMISE OF GOD YOU ARE WAITING ON.**

What are you waiting on?????

> Has God promised to bring you a wife? But it has been several years and time is going by and you're only growing older. So, you've decided that if you don't do something it's not going to happen? So, you make a move

and you reach out to that girl, even though she's not really sold out to God like you want her to be, but it will be okay. Maybe, she'll change.....

> Has God promised blessing, but you have been more financially strapped than ever? So, instead of waiting on the Lord and continuing to trust Him in obedience in giving your tithe, you discuss with your spouse that the right thing to do is to hold off on your giving for now. After all, we need that money and God understands. But, your lack of faith that results in disobedience assaults God's promise of blessing.

ILLUSTRATION: Saul, the first king of Israel

Saul looked like a king, sounded like a king, commanded like a king – but the reign of Saul was marked with impatience. Time after time, when he should have exercised restraint he instead charged forward. When he should have exercised faith, he took matters into his own hands.

(Explain scripture)

The Israelites were outnumbered at Gilgal by the Philistines, and panic was running through the camp. Rather than standing in faith, the soldiers were running and hiding in caves, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns. It was chaos, and Saul was acutely aware of how out of control the situation was becoming.

Samuel the prophet had told Saul to wait there for seven days, which Saul did. Samuel said that he would be there to offer sacrifices at the end of that time,

1 Samuel 13:7-14 As for Saul, he was still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling. ⁸ Then he waited seven days, according to the time set by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. ⁹ So Saul said, "Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me." And he offered the burnt offering. ¹⁰ Now it happened, as soon as he had finished presenting the burnt offering, that Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might greet him.

¹¹ And Samuel said, "What have you done?"

Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash, ¹² then I said, 'The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the Lord.' Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering."

¹³ And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you. For now

the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. ¹⁴ But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.”

--

When the seventh day came and went and Saul saw that the men were deserting, he decided it was foolish to wait any more. So he took matters into his own hands. He offered the sacrifice himself, assuming that doing so would bring a victory from the Lord. And while the smoke was still rising from the fires, Samuel approached.

Now we could argue that Saul had done the right thing. After all, something had to be done, didn't it? They couldn't just continue to stand there. And Samuel did not actually come when he said he would. And the whole army was becoming anxious. And, and, and, and...It could go on forever.

**SO, WHAT HAD SAUL DONE?
WHAT ACTION HAD SAUL TAKEN THAT WOULD RESULT IN THE
STRIPPING OF THE KINGDOM FROM HIM AND HIS FAMILY?**

**HE TOOK MATTERS INTO HIS OWN HANDS INSTEAD OF WAITING ON THE
LORD.**

APPPLICATION:

Now surely we can relate to this, can't we? Surely there have been times when it felt like your life was in chaos. That something had to be done. That we couldn't just continue to wait on the Lord. That it was not only the right thing, but the responsible thing to take matters into your own hands. It's that inner tormenting voice that tells you that action must be taken.

2. FAITH WAITS ON GOD TO BRING ABOUT THE PROMISE

THINGS WE NEED TO REMEMBER ABOUT WAITING ON THE LORD:

- 1) **Waiting on the Lord is not passive. When we are waiting on the Lord, there is plenty to keep us busy. Just because we are waiting on the Lord for one thing does not mean that we have pushed pause on**

everything else he has told us to do. No, we keep going in what we know until God brings about what we don't know.

2) Waiting on the Lord is not a posture of laziness or inactivity; it's a time to not overestimate what we are either capable of or even supposed to be doing.

**WHEN IT FEELS LIKE THINGS ARE SPINNING OUT OF CONTROL,
BEWARE OF TAKING MATTERS INTO
YOUR OWN HANDS.**

**INSTEAD, WALK WITH JESUS IN WHAT YOU KNOW TO BE HIS WILL AND
TRUST THAT GOD WILL BRING ABOUT
HIS WILL IN HIS TIME.**

PEOPLE WHO WAITED ON THE LORD.....

1. Joseph - Eventually Pharaoh made Joseph the second-in-command in all of Egypt. From prison to power, Joseph was placed strategically by God to prepare the land against a famine. His position in Egypt fulfilled the dream he had that he would rule over his family as they came to Egypt for food during the famine. In the years of Joseph waiting in prison, he trusted in God and the Lord blessed him and saved many lives through him. Instead of looking at the wrongs of his family and becoming bitter he saved them. Instead of becoming bitter through his suffering and unfair treatment and giving up on God, he endured. Instead of saying, "Look who I am! Look at what God has called me to be! Like he did when he shared his dreams in arrogance with his brothers about them bowing down on him, years later he wept when they came to see him.

2. Moses - 40 years in the desert, prepared him to lead a multitude in patience and compassion. Those 40 years hammered out humbleness in him. Those years of shepherding alone in the desert chiseled out a habit of talking to the Lord one-on-one and listening to the voice of God. To where he would be called by God "friend"!

4. Joshua and Caleb - After coming to the border of Canaan and having seen with their own eyes its bounty and beauty and even tasted its fruit, then were sent out to spend 40 years in the desert. Surely with their leadership skills and their fighting skills; and their military expertise they could have gathered some of the people and crossed over!.

After all this was God's will! This was God's promise!

If they had taken matters into their own hands, before it was time, they might have taken some in that weren't ready; some that still had some doubt and disbelief and a desire for the land of Egypt and it would have manifested in their ability to fight against the giants. The people weren't ready.

5. David - waiting to take the throne. Hiding, hungry, on the run, for years and it seemed so unfair. What about God's calling on his life. But in his waiting he grew in character. Time after time he appeared to be the fool to those men who fought with him, because he wouldn't take advantage of Saul's authority and take over. But in doing this, he grew the respect of those he would need to support him in the future.

3. IMPATIENCE WILL BIRTH A SON OF THE FLESH

Galatians 4:21-31 Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. ²³ But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, ²⁴ which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar—²⁵ for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children—²⁶ but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.²⁸ Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise. ²⁹ But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now. ³⁰ Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman." ³¹ So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

>Paul compares the two women and their sons to mountains: Hagar and Ishmael are Mt. Sinai, that is, the law. Sarah and Isaac are Mt. Zion (the heavenly Jerusalem), that is, the gospel.

> There is then a picture of slaves and freemen: Ishmael is the son of a slave, but Isaac is freeborn. The freeborn son - not the slave son - will inherit the family estate.

>Paul then speaks about the causes of their births: Ishmael was born in the ordinary way, but Isaac was born of God's promise in a supernatural way.

And finally, there is a picture of persecution: the son born by the flesh persecuted the son (Ishmael) born as a result of a promise (Isaac).

Through all of these pictures, the main point emerges: the Galatians were sons of the promise, just like Isaac. The gospel made them free from sin and the death, which follows sin. They were heirs to the heavenly Jerusalem. They were not slaves, yet they were tempted to enslave themselves again.

Christ's righteousness became their righteousness. They were righteous not by cutting off that particular piece of skin (or following any other custom) but by Christ alone. They were righteous by faith. They were righteous by a supernatural birth.

**WE CAN BIRTH THINGS IN A HUMAN WAY.
JUST LIKE ABRAHAM AND SARAH, WE THINK WE CAN
DO GOD'S WORK.
BUT THIS IS FLAT OUT UNBELIEF.**

**WE CAN ATTEMPT TO BIRTH THE PROMISE OURSELVES.
OR WE CAN RELY ON THE PROMISE TO BE FULFILLED
SUPERNATURALLY BY GOD HIMSELF!**

Isaac's birth was anything but normal. His parents were old, like great-grandparent old. Sarah was barren and beyond menopause. But God promised. And when God speaks, it is so. There was no planning this birth. Abraham and Sarah could only trust. And even though they wavered, Abraham believed. He looked at his body and Sarah's body and saw impossibility. He had to go by faith because no reasonable man could believe that a child could be born without supernatural help.

APPLICATION:

- > I have faced some situations where I have wanted to take matters into my own hands and do God's work for Him.
- > There a times when I can see clearly a way to resolve an issue, I know it is the answer, but when I go to the Lord He says it isn't time. Or He says He wants to do it His way!

POINTS REVIEW:

1. WHEN WE TAKE MATTERS INTO OUR OWN HANDS INSTEAD OF WAITING ON THE LORD WE CAN BIRTH AN ENEMY TO THE PROMISE

2. FAITH WAITS ON GOD TO BRING ABOUT THE PROMISE

3. IMPATIENCE WILL BIRTH A SON OF THE FLESH

- > Are you struggling with believing God for something?
- > Do you feel like it's not going to happen unless you do something?
- > Are you struggling with waiting on God for a promise to be fulfilled.

Hebrews 10:23 ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.