

I. What Powerlessness Looks Like (8-11)

A. Unforeseen change (8) - “And the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.”

B. Irreversible moments (9) - “But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, laughing.”

C. Unmerciful declarations (10-11) - “So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not be heir with my son Isaac.” And the thing was very displeasing to Abraham on account of his son.”

II. What Rejection Looks Like (12-14a)

A. There were forces they could not stop (12) - “But God said to Abraham, “Be not displeased because of the boy and because of your slave woman. Whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for through Isaac shall your offspring be named.”

B. There was a big picture they could not see (13) - “And I will make a nation of the son of the slave woman also, because he is your offspring.”

C. There was pain they could not have anticipated (14) - “So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.”

D. There was a despair they could not shake (15-16) - “When the water in the skin was gone, she put the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, “Let me not look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept.”

III. What Rescue & Welcome Look Like (17-21)

A. God did not abandon them (17) - “And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is.”

B. God’s plans for them had not been thwarted (18) - “Up! Lift up the boy, and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make him into a great nation.”

C. God’s resources for them had not dried up (19) - “Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.”

D. God became both Father & Husband to them (20-21) - “And God was with the boy, and he grew up. He lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.”