

Bouquet Caboodle



Highland Lectionary Series

June 21, 2026

The Merciful Unfolding

Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17;

Romans 6:1-11; Matthew 10:24-39

Today's Big Idea

God allows us to make mistakes, and allows the consequences of those mistakes to unfold as they will, but interjects His mercy into the equation.

Sarah's (and Abraham's) Scheme

The back story: Genesis 15-21

Eliezer of Damascus?: Genesis 15:2-3

God again promises descendants: Genesis 15:4 (see Genesis 12:2, 7, 13:16)

Sarah's creative half-truth solution: Genesis 16:1-4

Abraham listened to her: A nod to Adam and Eve?

Hagar's contempt and Sarah's harsh response: Genesis 16:4-6

God's merciful response to Hagar: Genesis 16:7-14

Ishmael is born: Genesis 16:15

God's promise reaffirmed twice more: Gen 17-18

Isaac is born: Genesis 21:1-8

Ishmael caught "laughing" and Sarah casts him and mom out into the desert: Genesis 21:8-14

God's merciful response once more

The nature of temptation: truth pepper

Our desire to be in control

Freedom of the will

Consequences from poor decisions

Differentiated from "punishment"

Consequences from right decisions: Matthew 10:34-39

Mercy triumphs over judgment: James 2:13

The Legacy of Ishmael: Genesis 16:10, 13

Twelve sons: Genesis 25:12-18

Ishmael in the Islamic tradition

A sign through the ages of the merciful God Who Hears

The Key Excerpts for This Week's Thematic Thread

<i>Genesis 21:8-21</i>	<i>Psalms 86:1-10, 16-17</i>	<i>Romans 6:1-11</i>	<i>Matthew 10:24-39</i>
8 The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. 9 But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. 10 So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." 11 The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. 12 But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. 13 As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." 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 about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.	1 Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. 2 Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you; save your servant who trusts in you. You are my God; 3 be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all day long. 4 Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. 5 For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you. 6 Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my cry of supplication. 7 In the day of my trouble I call on you, for you will answer me. 8 There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. 9 All the nations you have made shall come and bow down before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. 10 For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God. 16 Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant; save the child of your maidservant. 17 Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame, because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.	6 What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For whoever has died is freed[a] from sin. 8 But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.	34 "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword. 35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, 36 and one's foes will be members of one's own household. 37 "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, 38 and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

Next Week's Readings: What thread do you discern? June 28 2026 – Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42