

LEARN

Read Galatians 4:21-31 together. What stands out in the text, and what was helpful/challenging from the sermon on Sunday?

How would you summarize what Paul is doing in the text by using the 2 sons of Abraham to make his point about the Law and the promise?

(Judaizers were sons of Abraham by descent, but not by the promise of God through faith. Jews following only law, without faith, to earn salvation were like Ishmael. To have the faith of Abraham is to also have the faith of the son of the promise, Isaac)

What are the differences of the 2 women and the 2 respective “Jerusalem’s” they produce according to Paul? (Hagar is Jerusalem from below, only in slavery to Law and rejecting Christ. Earthly Jerusalem cannot bring freedom. Sarah is Jerusalem above, of the promise by grace, relying on God to save and not self/works)

PRACTICE

In what ways is it tempting to act more like Ishmael, in self-reliance, working to earn, and trying to force God’s favor? How does the gospel combat these 3 common temptations?

(Gospel brings God-reliance, believing to receive, and waiting on God. Gospel screams we are insufficient but God is gracious to sinners through faith in Jesus)

How is it helpful to think about the fact that there are only 2 paths – one to freedom and one to slavery? What are some indicators that tell you which path a person is following?

(Ideas include: path to slavery dominated by fear, insecurity, always striving, never resting or hopeful. Freedom in Christ brings certainty, peace, rest, obeying from heart and not earning salvation)

In what ways can the gospel of freedom in and through Christ be threatening to a “religious” person?

(Leaning only on the work of another – Jesus – to reconcile us to God is inherently unacceptable to a religious heart that demands they be good enough, do enough, observe enough rules to merit God’s favor)

How would you help someone struggling with receiving grace freely to leave behind their moralism, earning, or slavish obedience to a system/religion?

(Prayerfully apply the gospel and hold out to them the hope and freedom found in Christ alone. Take them to the dozens of passages of Christ’s work and our receiving on faith for salvation)

CHANGE

In what ways (recently) have you grown in living as a free person through faith in Jesus Christ? Or, how has God revealed to you where your heart is still in self-reliance and not relying on God?

(Leaders: The idea is to hear from both “types” of people in your group... those successfully living free in Christ, and those seeing how they are prone to try to earn their way to God and rely on themselves. Your people do not have to answer both questions, but hopefully 1 of the 2 Q’s strikes a cord with each person)