

January 21-Genesis 21

Genesis 21 gives us an account of a long awaited answer to God's promise to Abraham. Finally, Abraham has been given a son! This is a moment that is filled with joy as Sarah reflects on the absolute miracle that has occurred as she holds a son in her old age. This son Isaac is the promised seed of a multitude of descendants. He is the one who will further the family name. However, in the moment of Abraham and Sarah's greatest joy, we see a reminder of their past mistakes.

Chapter 21 tells us that on the day that Isaac was weaned Abraham made a great feast, "But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, laughing. 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.'" In these lines we see the reality that our missteps so often have long lasting consequences. At the time that Hagar conceived and gave birth to Ishmael, Abraham was 86 years old, in Genesis 21 Abraham is 100 years old. 14 years had passed and yet the tensions and the heartache that were created in Genesis 16 were still present.

We must realize that what we do and how we behave will not only influence our life circumstances today, they will also often impact how we are able to live tomorrow. A moment that God had foretold and many had doubted had just taken place and yet it was overshadowed at least partially by this unfortunate event in the past. You know, so often we live in the moment. We think about how much momentary pleasure or notoriety we may receive. People have a tendency to "live for the day" and so often this living for fleeting pleasure produces a life of sorrow. The challenge is very simple for today; try to live in light of your future. Don't allow one night to dictate your life for years to come. Don't sacrifice a momentary high or buzz for a future of Godly contentment and peace. These things promise joy and blessing but they only deliver heartache.