

“The Highs and Lows of Life”

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Romans 8:38-39

8.20.17

Introduction:

- A. Life is full of _____ and _____ and we can be sure we will have moments of happiness and sadness, elation and depression, and joy and woe.
- B. Our task is to learn to navigate the _____ of life as we walk with God and depend on Him.

I. The Story

- A. Genesis 21:1-7
 - 1. In the first part of Abraham’s story segment for today we see him experience one of life’s _____.
 - 2. At long last, at the appointed time, Abraham and Sarah received the fulfillment of the _____ - _____ was born.
 - 3. In obedience to God’s command, Abraham circumcised his son on his _____ day of life.
 - 4. Isaac’s birth needed to be a supernatural demonstration of God’s power so that the _____ for the miracle of Isaac’s birth would be _____ alone.
- B. Genesis 21:8-11
 - 1. The very next verse in Abraham’s story moves them from life’s highs to its _____.
 - 2. So Isaac was 3-years-old and Ishmael was 17-years-old and during the family celebration for Isaac, Sarah caught Ishmael _____ her son, Isaac.
 - 3. And so with motherly protectiveness mixed with petty jealousy, Sarah demanded that Abraham _____ of the slave woman and her son.
 - 4. Anyone who lives in a _____ home can identify with Abraham’s situation.
- C. Genesis 21:12-21
 - 1. The narrator twice described Abraham as distressed, but gracefully, God stepped in and gave Abraham _____ and a _____.
 - 2. God told Abraham that it was okay to follow Sarah’s instructions and _____ Hagar and Ishmael _____.
 - 3. God promised to _____ of Ishmael and to multiply his descendants.
 - 4. God’s treatment of Hagar can offer all of us some needed comfort, especially those who are _____ parents. (Psalm 68:5-6)
 - 5. God then helped Hagar to open her eyes to the _____ that God was providing around her.

II. The Application

- A. The first lesson I want us to take to heart is that God _____ His _____.
 - 1. God is not in a _____.
 - 2. God never _____ His promises.
 - 3. God’s promises are linked to their _____.
- B. The second lesson I want us to take to heart is that God’s _____ doesn’t necessarily remove _____ consequences.

Answer Key: Intro. A. highs, lows. B. extremes. I.A.1. highs. I.A.2. promise, Isaac. I.A.3. eighth. I.A.4. credit, God’s. I.B.1. lows. I.B.2. mocking. I.B.3. get, rid. I.B.4. stepfamily. I.C.1. instructions, promise. I.C.2. send, away. I.C.3. take, care. I.C.4. single. I.C.5. provision. II.A. keeps, promises. II.A.1. hurry. II.A.2. forgets. II.A.3. context. II.B. forgiveness, earthly.