

Genesis 21:8-20

⁸ The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. ⁹ But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, ¹⁰ and she said to Abraham, “Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac.” ¹¹ The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. ¹² But God said to him, “Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. ¹³ I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring.” ¹⁴ Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba. ¹⁵ When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. ¹⁶ Then she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, for she thought, “I cannot watch the boy die.” And as she sat there, she began to sob. ¹⁷ God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. ¹⁸ Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation.” ¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. ²⁰ God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. ²¹ While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.

1. Disobedience has Consequences and Righteousness its Rewards.
2. God is faithful to His promises.

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1. **Disobedience has Consequences: Vs. 10** “and she said to Abraham, “Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac.”
 - a. **Sarah’s and Abraham’s disobedience led to consequences for:**
 - i. **Sarah and Issacc:** Sarah created a rival for herself and her son.
 - ii. **Abraham:** Abraham would have to send his son away.
 - iii. **Hagar and Ismael:** Hagar and Ishmael would be mistreated and subject to abandonment.
 - iv. **Joseph:** Joseph would be sold to the Ishmaelites a few generations later. *Genesis 37:28* So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and **sold** him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.
 - b. **Sarah wanted to bear no responsibility for her sin —** “Get rid of that slave woman.”
 2. **God is Faithful to his Promises: Vs. 13** “I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring.”
 - a. **God’s promises are greater than your failures:** *Genesis 13:16* I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted.
 - b. **The descendants of Hagar became the Arab peoples:** Hagar bore Abraham a son named Ishmael. It is believed in Islamic tradition that Ishmael is the ancestor of the Arab people. This belief is based on the Islamic Quran, which describes Ishmael as a prophet and forefather of the Arab nations. Surah Al-Saffat (Chapter 37), verses 100-111. Here’s an excerpt from verse 100. The descendants of Ismael are mentioned in Genesis 25.

Practical Takeaways:

Hold on to the Promises: You can't hold on to the promises if you don't know the promise.

- **Philippians 4:19:** "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."
- **2 Thessalonians 3:3** But the Lord is **faithful**, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.

Practice Righteousness and Reap the Rewards:

- **Psalm 18:20** The LORD has dealt with me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he has rewarded me.
- **Mark 10:29** "Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel ³⁰will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come to eternal life.

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. Forgiveness does not always remove the consequences. Sarah wanted to "get rid" of the slave woman. How can we weave God into our bad outcomes to glorify him, rather than just avoiding them?
2. A key sermon point was that disobedience has consequences and righteousness rewards. Have you ever experienced unexpected consequences of disobedience?
3. Can you think of a time God has rewarded you for being obedient? How does God possibly reward us in light of Mark 10:29 above?
4. What practical steps can we take to remind ourselves of God's promises daily? How can we actively pursue righteousness in our actions and decisions?
5. How does the concept of God's promises being greater than our failures impact your understanding of forgiveness and redemption?