

**Sermon Notes of  
Guest Speaker Paul Siddall's Sermon on May 10, 2015  
Sarah –The Mother of Us All**

**[In today's sermon, guest speaker Paul Siddall, honors mothers by showing through the example of Sarah, who in spite of all her struggles in life, put her faith and trust in God.]**

**Notes:**

Introduction:

- This is a tribute to honor all mothers, who are so important to us.
- A lot of people are raised by non-birth mothers including our guest speaker.
- The apostle Paul writes about Sarah as wonderful example of a woman and mother who trusted God.

**Gal. 4:26, But the other woman, Sarah, represents the heavenly Jerusalem. She is the free woman, and she is our mother.**

- Her example shows us that nothing of significance can be accomplished without God.

**Galatians 4:22, For it is Abraham had two sons, one by the bondwoman and one by the free woman. 23) But the son by the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and the son by the free woman through the promise. 24) This is allegorically speaking, for these women are two covenants: one proceeding from Mount Sinai bearing children who are to be slaves; she is Hagar.**

- In essence, the descendants of Hagar are bound totally by the flesh.
- In essence, the descendants of Sarah yield themselves to God.
  
- The Old Covenant demands obedience.
- The New Covenant inspires obedience.
  
- The OC tells us to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And to "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Deut. 6:5; Lev.19:18)
- The NC tells us, "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1 John 4:10).

**Galatians 4:25, Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. 26) But the Jerusalem above is free; she is our mother. 27) For it is written, "Rejoice, barren woman who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in labor; for more numerous are the children of the desolate than of the one who has a husband."**

- Here Hagar represents the people under the Covenant of the Law who are in bondage to the law because they try to be justified by works.
- But "Jerusalem above" (in a sense meaning Sarah) represents the New Covenant of grace.

- It also represents all who humbly and graciously believe in God's promise of Salvation he is offering through Christ.
- Hagar had a natural birth – representing the Old Covenant.
- While Sarah had a supernatural birth – representing the New Covenant.

#### Sarah – the mother of us all:

- She is the mother of us all to teach us to put our trust in God when things are
  - DOWN
  - DELAYED
  - DISFUNCTIONAL
  - DEPLORABLE
  - DEPLETED
  - DESPARATE
- Sarah went through all of these difficulties in life.

#### A Woman of Beauty – Sarah:

- Sarah was a lady of beauty. Scripture tells us “She was a very beautiful woman” (Gen.13:14).
- She went through difficulties in Egypt because of her beauty and Abraham, fearing for his life, lied and told the Pharaoh's officials that Sarah was his sister.
- So Pharaoh took Sarah, because of her beauty, into his palace for her to become one of his wives.
- But God intervened so that Pharaoh let her go and told both of them to leave Egypt. un

#### A Woman of Beauty – today:

- Can a attract a rich man who mainly wants a “trophy wife!”
- Can be a greater target for rape.
- Can face more temptations than a common looking woman.
- Can be tempted to place more emphasis on the internal rather than the external.

#### Name change:

- Note here that in Gen. 12:2 there is only one great nation, whereas in Gen 17.4-5 God talks about multitude of nations.
- Here, God changes the name of Abram to Abraham and Sarai to Sarah.
- So Abram (Noble Father) becomes Abraham (Father of many).
- And Sarai (Princess) becomes Sarah (Mother or Princess of nations).

#### The faith of Abraham and Sarah:

**8) By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9) By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and**

**Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10) for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.**

- By faith, Abraham left Haran after God's calling to "go to the land I will show you" (Gen. 12:1).
- Abraham left a city of large homes and great wealth to live in tents in Canaan.
- Abraham, along with Isaac and Jacob, were content to wait for God's ultimate promises.

**11) By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. 12) Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude – innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.**

- Sarah initially had a lot of difficulties waiting on God's promise to her and Abraham to have a son.
- But she finally put her trust and faith in God to deliver her from her trials and became pregnant at an old age.
- Both Abraham and Sarah became a team working together – each having faith in God.

The crisis of faith:

- These verses of Psalm 73 reflect the thoughts of Sarah who became angry and resentful of Hagar, her maidservant, after she became pregnant.

**Psalms 73:1, Truly God is good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart. 2) But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped. 3) For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.**

- Every believer has these negative thoughts
  - "But as for me..."
  - Or, I "almost"...
  - Or, "For I was envious"...
- Do we, too, harbor some negative thoughts about God in our lives?
- Pray and ask God to get us out of our crisis of faith.

The test of faith:

These verses continue to reflect the troubled thoughts of Sarah.

**Psalm 73:12, Behold, these are the ungodly, Who are always at ease; They increase in riches. 13) Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain, And washed my hands in innocence. 14) For all day long I have been plagued, And chastened every morning.**

Sarah's Plight:

- I have created a disaster!
- Will I have to pay for this the rest of my life?
- Why would a low-life like Hagar be more blessed than me?

- I now know nothing will ever turn out right for me.
- Am I going to be remembered for my legacy or lunacy?

#### Gaining a foothold of faith for every believer!

**Psalm 73:15, If I had said, “I will speak thus,” Behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of Your children. 16) When I thought how to understand this, It was too painful for me – 7) Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end.**

- My problem was too painful to think about.
- Until I turned to God.
- Then God gave me understanding.

#### How faith comes:

- Faith does not come by looking to ourselves but by looking to God.
- Faith does not come by a clearer understanding of ourselves but by a clearer understanding of who GOD is and His purpose for us!
- Faith is not about learning a truth about yourself – its about learning the truth about someone named JESUS!
- Faith comes by asking: “Is anything too hard for God?”
- There is only one answer – NO.

#### The recovery of faith:

**Psalm 73:21, Thus my heart was grieved, And I was vexed in my mind. 22) I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You. 23) Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand. 24) You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory. 25) Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You. 26) My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.**

Faith recovers when we can say as Sarah did –

- “NEVERTHELESS I AM WITH YOU!”
- “YOU HOLD ME!”
- “YOU GUIDE ME!”
- “AND AFTERWARD!”
- “BUT GOD is the strength of my heart!”

#### Concluding thoughts:

- Now the last words of David are important for us to know.

**2 Samuel 23:1 (NKJV), Thus says David the son of Jesse; Thus says the man raised up on high, The anointed of the God of Jacob, 2) And the sweet psalmist of Israel: “The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue.**

**3) The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me: 'He who rules over men must be just, Ruling in the fear of God. 4) And he shall be like the light of the morning when the sun rises, A morning without clouds, Like the tender grass springing out of the earth, By clear shining after rain.'**

**5) "Although my house is not so with God, Yet He has made with me an everlasting covenant, Ordered in all things and secure. For this is all my salvation and all my desire; Will He not make it increase?"**

- We need to trust God, as Sarah and David did, even though we, like her, make mistakes and don't live our lives perfectly.

#### Korean mother:

- This is an amazing true story on the internet.
- It occurred in the 1950's when the communists from N. Korea invaded S. Korea.
- In a village near Seoul, a pastor, with his wife and two children, were taken captive by 40 communist activists.
- They were told to publically deny Christ, which they refused to do.
- They were told that they would be buried alive in a pit that had just been dug. They still refused.
- The four of them were placed in this pit – as they were standing there, the people began to shovel dirt on to them.
- When the dirt came up the level of the children's ankles, they again were asked to deny Christ – which they refused.
- When the dirt came up the level of the children's waist, they again were asked to deny Christ – which they refused.
- When the dirt came up the level of the top of the children's chest, they again were asked to deny Christ – the children started crying and asking for help.
- Their father began to speak as though he might have been thinking about denying Christ in order to save his children.
- But the mother had very strong faith and said, "Be quiet children. Tonight we'll be eating supper with the King of kings and the Lord of lords."
- She then asked the children to start singing a hymn with her, which they did.
- They were then buried alive.
- But the amazing part of the story is that 39 of the 40 activists, who had participated in this killing, came to Christ within a few years.
- This is the faith of a woman who would not let go of the promise of God.

#### Closing Prayer:

- Guest speaker Paul asked very one in the congregation to stand up and hold their hands together in front of their heart.

- He asked that we tell God that we give all our pain, discouragement, the moments of frustration that are in our hearts to him as we open our hands and extend them up and outward to God.
- Paul then offered up a prayer asking God's blessing for everyone especially the mothers.