

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM – THE FORGIVENESS OF SIN

David Howard

GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Psalms 103:2-3; 11-12 A Psalm Of David.

**(2) Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And forget not all His benefits:**

**(3) Who forgives all your
iniquities, Who heals all your
diseases,**

**(11) For as the heavens are high
above the earth, So great is His
mercy toward those who fear
Him;**

**(12) As far as the east is from the
west, So far has He removed our
transgressions from us.**

How great it is to sing praises unto our God for His grace, mercy and forgiveness. Our hearts can truly rejoice that our sins in the past, present and future are washed away by the blood of Christ and that our eternal destiny is with God as joint-heirs with Christ. When you accept Christ as your Savior, God has forgiven your sins.

However, the earthly consequences of your sin may have a lasting affect on you and others. While sins can be forgiven, the effects of sin sometimes are not erasable.

The Haunting and Harmful Effects of Sin. Genesis 21

Children were breast fed up until about the age of three years old. It was at this time that a celebration was to be held for Isaac. (Gen. 21:8) Ishmael, the son of Hagar, (Genesis 16) *Hagar the servant whom Abram had sexual relations with*, was about 17 yrs. old. Often an older child

feels threatened by the birth of a younger sibling. The emotions that they have may be unfounded but nevertheless they are real emotions. Hurt, jealousy, unsure of their standing with their parents as the joy and happiness of the newborn overshadows the older child's life. Here is where it gets ugly.

Genesis 21:8-10

(8) So the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the same day that Isaac was weaned.

(9) And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, scoffing.

(10) Therefore she said to Abraham, "Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, namely with Isaac."

In verse 9 Ishmael in the KJV the word scoffing is rendered as mocking which has the same root word as Isaac's name "to laugh". In this form the verb takes on a different nuance. It carries the idea to jest, to make sport of, to play with. He wasn't just laughing but making fun of Isaac and Sarah saw/heard and as you can imagine all of her protective motherhood came in to play.

Gen 21:10 Therefore she said to Abraham, "Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, *namely* with Isaac."

Family gatherings always seem to bring drama.

This is what modern day psychology likes to refer to as "The Blended Family" My step sister affectionately refers to me as *A brother from another mother*. We love each other but that relationship is unique for her and I. Other step-siblings may have misgivings and mistrust towards each other. Who has not heard the name of Cinderella and her "evil" stepsisters and step Mother? Could such portrayals' taught to children, have subliminally affected those blended relationship only to have put them in a blender and further harmed them? It all began with Abraham and Sarah not trusting God and looking for another way.

Not Trusting God is Sin

The results of this sin, see Hagar and Ismael hastily sent on their way with little food and water. It must have hurt Abraham to the core to see his oldest son whom he had taught and raised be forced to leave but what could he do? Sarah was his wife. Happy wife, happy life.

God was amazing through all of this!

Gen 21:12 But God said to Abraham, "Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad or because of your bondwoman. Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for in Isaac your seed shall be called.

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Gen 21:13 Yet I will also make a nation of the son of the bondwoman, because he *is* your seed."

Abraham had been displeased with what he saw but listened to God and obeyed

Hagar wandered aimlessly until the water was gone and sat down with her son and cried.

Genesis 21:16-19

(16) Then she went and sat down across from him at a distance of about a bowshot; for she said to herself, "Let me not see the death of the boy." So she sat opposite him, and lifted her voice and wept.

(17) And God heard the voice of the lad. Then the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said to her, "What ails you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is.

(18) Arise, lift up the lad and hold him with your hand, for I will make him a great nation."

(19) Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she went and filled the skin with water, and gave the lad a drink.

We close out this chapter by seeing once again, **the Faithfulness of God**. All He promised was fulfilled. God loves, protects, helps, heals and saves.

Maybe you have made mistakes in life. I know I have. Maybe those mistakes, sins have had some rough consequences. Rest in knowing that God will help you through that. Stay faithful to God

and his calling in your life and you will be blessed.

Dear Heavenly Father,

We praise you for your forgiveness and faithfulness. We could not ask for a greater Father God. Help those who are hurting from the consequences of their sin and reassure them that you are there for them. Dry the tears from their eyes and may your Holy Spirit comfort them and also give them guidance and direction in their lives. We humbly pray this in Jesus name. Amen!

