

**Introduction:** Abraham and Sarah put the ‘fun’ in dysfunctional marriage! First of all, they were half-siblings with the same father, but different mothers (Genesis 20:12). So, Isaac only had three grandparents: one grandfather and two grandmothers. Sarah’s doubts about God’s Word caused her to push her husband to disobey God by ‘going into’ her maid to conceive a son. When he does so and the maid conceives, Sarah blames Abraham. She takes no responsibility for proposing the affair! (This is the ‘stuff’ of soap operas.) \*\*\* The son that resulted from this disobedience to God’s creation order (Genesis 2:24) makes life miserable for four people. But, after The Angel of Yahweh intervenes an uneasy truce holds in place for fourteen years. \*\*\* When Yahweh finally fulfills His Word to Abraham by visiting Sarah so she bears his a son of laughter when she is age ninety and he is age one-hundred, the questionably born son attacks the son of God’s Word, resulting in two people being put away. \*\*\* However, two thousand years later, the apostle Peter only mentions Sarah’s good qualities. This is because in His Grace, God forgave her of her manipulation, oppressions and self-deception. So, now Sarah is remembered for what she became at the end of her life by God’s Grace. \*\*\* (**Transition:** Everyone has fallen short of God’s righteous way of living laid out in the Torah. But, by God’s Grace all people may live in the obedience of the faith of Jesus (Romans 1:15-17). \*\*\* With this introduction, let us look closer into our passages for this morning that we may be encouraged to live by the faith of The Gospel (Good News) of Jesus Christ – The Savior-King.

**I. After ten years without a child, at age seventy-five, Sarah gives her maid to Abraham; the maid conceives and despises Sarah, who then blames her husband and drives her maid away into God’s hand. (Genesis 16:1-15)**

- A. Ten years after receiving God’s Word and still not having a child, Sarah convinces Abraham to ‘go into’ her maid, Hagar, to have a son with her; he does, she conceives, and belittles her mistress. (*Verses 1-4*)
1. Sarah, wife of Abraham, bore no children to him; and to her: Egyptian servant named Hagar. (*Verse 1*)  
**No children:** Ten years after God said Abraham would have as many descendants as the stars in heaven (Genesis 15:4-6) he still had no children with Sarah.  
**Maid-servant Hagar:** Sarah’s Egyptian maidservant’s name means to flee – an appropriate name!
  2. Sarah said to Abraham, ‘Behold, please, Yahweh has shut me up from bearing children; thou must “go in” please to my servant – perhaps I will be built up by her’; and, Abraham heard her voice. (*Verse 2*)  
**Yahweh shut up womb:** Sarah acknowledges Yahweh is ultimately in control of all that happens.  
**‘Go into’ my maid:** In all the cultures of their day, what Sarah proposes was legal and well-accepted.
  3. Then took Sarah, the wife of Abraham, Hagar her Egyptian maid-servant, after Abraham dwelt in Canaan ten years, then she gave her to Abraham her husband to be to him a wife. (*Verse 3*)  
**Sarah gives Hagar to Abraham:** God told Adam and Eve a man and a woman will have a life-long ‘one-flesh’ relationship (Genesis 2:24). By this action, Sarah rebels against God’s creation plan.
  4. Then he ‘came into’ Hagar, then she conceived; and, when she saw that she had conceived, then she belittled her mistress with her eyes. (*Verse 4*)  
**Hagar conceives:** Sarah showed little respect for Hagar when she suggested her husband enter into an immoral relationship with her maid-servant. God showed some measure of grace by allowing the mistreated Hagar to conceive a child which might even placate Sarah the mistreater.

**God shows grace to the mistreated and mistreaters**

- Hagar belittles Sarah:** However, Hagar was wrong to despise and belittle her mistress, no matter how much her mistress was in the wrong.
- B. Sarah says her husband wronged her, Abraham says her maid is ‘in her hand’, Sarah treats Hagar harshly until she flees. (*Verses 5-6*)
1. Then Sarah said to Abraham, ‘The wrong (lit. violence) to me (is) upon thee; I, even I, gave my maidservant to thy embrace; when she saw she had conceived, I was belittled in her eyes: Yahweh will judge between me and thee’. (*Verse 5*)  
**Sarah blames Abraham:** Amazingly, Sarah blames Abraham for going through with her ill-advised and disobedient to God plan!  
**She calls upon Yahweh to judge:** She believes Yahweh will judge her husband to have greater guilt than her. Under the New Covenant in Jesus she may be right (Ephesians 5:25-29).

**Application:** At this point we already need to be aware of the great danger to ourselves and others when we try to fulfill God’s Word with only our own thoughts and abilities!

2. Then said Abraham to Sarah, ‘Behold! Thy maid-servant is “in thy hand”’; thou must do to her the good in thy eyes’; then Sarah afflicted her, and she fled from her. (*Verse 6*)  
**Abraham defers to Sarah:** Abraham takes no responsibility for either Sarah or the son conceived in Hagar. Instead he opens the door for Sarah to mistreat her maid-servant.  
**Sarah is wrong-hearted:** And, rather than taking responsibility for her wrong-hearted plan, Sarah ‘doubles down’ by afflicting and further mistreating Hagar. So, Hagar lives up to her name and flees!

(After she flees, The Angel of Yahweh finds Hagar and sends her back to Sarah; Hagar names the place ‘well of the living one who sees me’ (verse 14), and names her son ‘He will hear – God’ (verses 7-15).

**God shows grace to the mistreated and mistreaters**

**II. Yahweh finally enables Sarah to bear a son to her husband in their old age and they rejoice; but, they cast out Hagar and her son; still, the apostle Peter says they had a model marriage in the grace of Life. (Genesis 21:1-13; 1 Peter 3:1-7)**

- A. After twenty-five years, Yahweh visits Sarah and she bears a son to Abraham, naming him ‘he will laugh’, and Sarah rejoices! (*Genesis 21:1-7*)
1. Yahweh visited Sarah as He said; then, Yahweh did to Sarah as he had spoken; she conceived, then she bore, Sarah to Abraham: a son in his old age at the appointed time which had spoken to him – God. (*Verses 1-2*)  
**Yahweh visits Sarah:** The Covenant God paid attention to and cared for Sarah.  
**Sarah bears a son to Abraham:** He did so by allowing her to give birth to a son with Abraham.
  2. Then Abraham called the name of his son being born to him, whom Sarah brought forth to him: Isaac; then Abraham circumcised Isaac his son at eight days, as had commanded him (Genesis 17:9-14), God. (*Verses 3-4*)  
**‘He will laugh’:** In English, *Yitz-khaq* (Isaac) means ‘he will laugh’ (Genesis 18:1-15).

*Joy:* Sarah had laughed mockingly at Yahweh, now she has joy! God gave Hagar's mistreater grace.

**God shows grace to the mistreated and mistreaters**

3. Abraham was one-hundred years old when was born to him Isaac, his son. (*Verse 5*)

**Time:** Twenty-five years had gone by since Yahweh first appeared to Abraham and told him his offspring would possess the land of Canaan (Genesis 12:1-7).

4. Sarah said, 'Laughter has made to me God, all hearing will laugh with me'; then she said, 'who said to Abraham "Sarah will suckle children"; yet, I have brought forth son to his old age'. (*Verses 6-7*)

**Sarah's joy:** Sarah cannot contain her joy over what the Covenant God has done for her and Abraham.

B. Abraham makes a feast when Isaac is weaned; but, Ishmael mocks his half-brother, then Sarah demands the maid and her son be cast out. (*Genesis 21:1-13*)

1. Then the child grew and was weaned, then made Abraham a great feast on the day Isaac was weaned. (*Verse 8*)

**Weaning feast:** It is cause for celebration when children can feed themselves, and Abraham celebrated for Isaac, who was probably about two years old.

2. Then Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had brought forth to Abraham, mocking; then she said to Abraham, 'Cast out this bond-woman with her son, for not he will be the heir, the son of this bond-woman with my son Isaac'. (*Verses 9-10*)

**Ishmael mocks:** For whatever reason Ishmael, who was about sixteen years old, is mocking Isaac at his celebration feast.

**Sarah: cast them out:** Sarah is offended that her son, who is the rightful heir of all God had said to her husband, would be mocked by Hagar's son!

**Application:** Let us all seek and receive grace to wait on God for His best and not over-react to the mocking of hurt and confused people.

3. And this thing was very displeasing (causing to tremble in grief) in the eyes of Abraham concerning his son. (*Verse 11*)

**Abraham greatly grieved:** Ishmael's mocking of Isaac, and Sarah's harsh response, greatly grieved Abraham, so much so that he was trembling.

4. Then God said to Abraham, 'Not it will be a cause of grieving in thy eyes on account of the young man and thy bondwoman, all which she will say to thee: Sarah; thou must hear to the voice of her, because in Isaac will be named to thee, descendants; and also the son of the bond-woman, a nation I will make him because thy offspring (is) he. (*Verses 12-13*)

**God's Word:** God's first word to Abraham is he must do what Sarah says because Isaac is the one chosen by Him.

So, despite all Sarah's manipulation and mistreatment of Hagar and her son, and her denial of any accountability concerning them, God shows Sarah His grace.

**God shows grace to the mistreated and mistreaters**

**Ishmael's future:** God told Abraham that he will also make a nation from Ishmael.

C. The apostle Peter calls Sarah a model wife, subjected to her husband in the holy fear of God; Abraham and Sarah shared together in the grace of Life. (*1 Peter 3:1-7*)

1. Likewise the wives, be being subjected to (your) own husbands, that if several are not believing the Word, through the wives manner of life without word, they will be gained; having observed in holy fear the manner of life of y'all. (*Verses 1-2*)

**Wives being subjected to their husbands:** Wives of un-believing husbands should submit to their husbands as they submit to Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5:22-24).

**Won by manner of living:** By living in the faith of the fear of God, their husbands can be won to faith by their manner of living for Jesus.

2. The order of them must not be from outside – braiding of hair, wearing gold or putting on clothing; but, the hidden person of the heart, in the imperishable meek and quiet spirit, which is being, in God's Presence, great value. (*Verses 3-4*)

**Outward appearance not important:** When it comes to God, and a faithful relationship with Him, how a person looks on the outside means nothing.

**Heart and spirit:** God looks deep in the heart of a person seeking continual meekness and quietness before Him. A humble heart is of greatest value to God.

3. Because in this way, formerly also the holy women, hoping in God, were ordering themselves, being subjected to their husbands; even as Sarah was subjected to Abraham: lord him calling; children y'all have been made of her, doing good and not being afraid and not terrorized. (*Verses 5-6*)

**Sarah and Abraham:** There is an ongoing spiritual battle. All who orient their lives by hoping in God by being subject to Him as their Lord so they may do good, even in the presence of strong spiritual opposition, are made like Sarah after she received grace. God's grace removed her faults as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12); and, brought her, and all who live under grace as she did, into the obedience of faith to God (Romans 16:25-26).

**Application:** Let us all rejoice in this Gospel Truth through the apostle Peter: all who humbly repent and seek God's grace, will have their faults removed so only their obedience of faith is remembered.

**Sarah obeyed her husband and called him lord**

4. Husbands likewise, living with (wives) according to knowledge, as (they are) weaker vessel, unto the wife (them) showing respect, honor; as also sharing together the grace of Life, to not hinder the prayers of y'all. (*Verse 7*)

**Sharing grace of Life:** When husbands respect their wives according to knowledge received from God by grace, they will share in The Life of Christ and their prayers will accomplish God's will.

**Conclusion:** God can override the impatient attempts of people to fulfill His Word in their own flawed reasoning. Sadly, other people often get hurt by these attempts. The result can be unintended negative consequences even after God fulfills His Word to the joy of His flawed people. Now that Jesus has died for the sins of people and risen to give them new life, all people have the hope of being remembered for the good they do by God's Grace IN Jesus.

**God shows grace to the mistreated and mistreaters**