**Origins (pt.2) - wk 6 – ???**

**What if you were able to take your worst mistake – and show it to everyone. What would you do? Today’s passage is known as Abe’s biggest failure – it’s Sarah's big fumble, too.**

**The OT is the sign to the Messiah - NT is the arrival of - JESUS.**

**Genesis – The Life of Abraham - the beginning of the way.**

**The LORD gave him five promises - the greatest is…**

**Abe is the Father of 60% of all world religions.**

**Abe is now growing in his walk with the LORD and settled in Canaan.**

**Today is the second most popular story of Abraham.**

**Genesis 16:1 Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. (God, for years, has promised Abe Children. Most recently in the last chap) But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; (she had here ever since they left Egypt several years ago) 2 so she said to Abram, “The LORD has kept me from having children. (The pain of no children, public shame, unanswered prayers…)**

**Had the LORD kept her from having kids – yes. God, in his sovereignty, has a perfect time, and it was not now. Blaming God for something that was true – Angry at God for being God.**

**Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her.” (She decided to take the matter into her own hands) Abram agreed to what Sarai said.**

**\*\* No need to get crass… This was a typical custom. While surrogacy was acceptable on other occasions in the Bible – this was not one. God has a different path and plan.**

**Abram agrees, but we soon find neither trusted God. issue They did not trust God’s plan and timing.**

**3 So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, (waiting on God for 10 yrs – nothing) Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. (his woman) 4 He slept with Hagar, and she conceived.**

**One thing they got right – sex follows marriage**

**Two things they got wrong: 1) multiple wives - Gen 2:24**

**and 2) they were acting in unbelief.**

**When she knew she was pregnant, she (Hagar) began to despise her mistress. (This must have been even further crushing for Sarai – she got pregnant. I can’t)**

**This, of course, would cause trouble. Abe giving the new mom attention. He might have assumed this is God’s promise.**

**5 Then Sarai said to Abram, “You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. (has an prideful attitude) May the LORD judge between you and me.” (God has my witness you better pick who you will honor – and fix this.)**

**She blamed Abe for her part of the sin. She took no ownership.**

**6 “Your slave is in your hands,” (last wk - Abe treated servants like family) Abram said. “Do with her whatever you think best.” (He put Sarai over Haggar – good move - unfortunately…) Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her. (Sad – A pregnant woman in the wilderness - nowhere to go. Runs away rushed)**

**(Something amazing) 7 The angel of the LORD (messenger – first use) found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. (road back to Egypt) 8 And he said, “Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?” (rhetorical question, LORD knows all)**

**Two questions we are still asking ourselves.**

**Where did I come from? / Where am I going?**

**“I’m running away from my mistress Sarai,” she answered. 9 Then the angel of the LORD told her, “Go back to your mistress and submit to her.” (It’s going to be okay - go home, stop running, I will protect you)**

**10 The angel (messenger) added, “I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count.” (Whoa - “I will”) 11 The angel of the LORD also said to her: “You are now pregnant, and you will give birth to a son. You shall name him Ishmael, (means - “God will hear”) for the LORD has heard of your misery. 12 He (your child) will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone’s hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers.”**

**13 She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: “You are the God who sees me,” for she said, “I have now seen the One who sees me.” 14 That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered. (more on this in a moment – this is amazing!!) 15 So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne. 16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael. (13 yrs later Sarah has a son)**

**\*\* A Word about the descendants of Ishmael.**

**Ishmael descendants are the majority of Arabic nations - Middle east.**

**Two reasons by there is constant war in the middle sat w/ Israel.**

1. **Arabs believe they are the promised son –**

**They claim Israel as the first-born. Mohammad claimed to be a direct descendant of Ish. But God chose another.**

1. **The LORD prophecies that there would be.**

**Tragic: they are brothers and share a common father.**

**The word of God about Ishmael and his descendants**

* **His descendants will be too numerous to count.**
* **He will be a wild donkey of a man.**
* **His hand will be against everyone & everyone’s hand against him.**
* **He will live in hostility toward all his brothers.**

**He will always be fighting – with everyone.**

**A word about the Israel / Palestine conflict – the map. - The entire Arab world wants Israel out. Within the Arab communities are terrorist groups such as Hamas (Palestinian govt) and Hezbollah, funded and sheltered by the Arab world. They have a long history of attacking Israel. Constantly firing missiles.**

**The Palestinian militant group Hamas launched a surprise assault on Israel Oct 7 -over 1,200 were killed in a day, and over 250 were taken to Gaza as hostages. This was their 911. Israel responds with war - killing 11,000 dead.**

**Hamas uses civilian communities as human shields. What is happening now is terrible – but not Israels fault – it’s defense with more advanced weapons. “From the River to the Seas” is from the Hamas charter – declaring an extermination of the Jews and taking Israel.**

**Many think they know God’s plan for the Arabs - wipe ‘em out! God could had them die in the desert. God spared them and still does.**

**God has a plan and passion for Ishmael's descendants.**

**Their fighting would end - if one bows the knee to Jesus,**

**and the fighting will ultimately end – when Christ returns.**

**What can we learn from this passage? So much…**

**1. Our spouse isn’t always right**

**Sari, in her insecurity, and Abe not leading and protecting his wife.**

**Both were the result of not trusting God’s word.**

**Sarai wasn’t the first woman to be tormented with the thought that maybe her husband would be better off w/ someone else.**

**It was unhealthy for Sarai to think that – but it was much worse for Abram to heed the voice of Sarai on this matter.**

**A godly Christian wife has a lot of wisdom – and we must learn the value of listening to the wisdom of our wives. Yet no wife is infallible,**

**Abram was responsible for his sin of passively agreeing with this unbelief-based advice. He could have said…**

**Not trusting God’s word – we often take the well-intentioned advice of others that neglect the Word of God.**

**2. Impatience and insecurity breed all kinds of trouble.**

**V2 “perhaps I can build a family through her.” Abram agreed to what Sarai said.**

**Waiting can be discouraging and breed insecurity.**

**I got the word of God, but where’s the work of God?**

**The fruit of the flesh:**

* **The flesh says now (do it!) when God says wait – Sari / Abe**
* **The flesh wants to blame others for our sins – Sarai**
* **The flesh says it’s never my fault – Sarai blamed God & Abe**
* **The flesh wants to run away from sin and problems – Hagar**

**Proverbs 19:2 Desire without knowledge is not good - how much more will hasty feet miss the way! 3 A person’s own folly leads to their ruin, yet their heart rages against the Lord.**

**When to move vs. when to wait? Very simple - If your actions / plans contradict the clear word of God in any way – wait.**

**Galatians 5 unpacks what the actions of the flesh and Spirit look like.**

**You may be inclined to take matters into your own hands – Psalm 27:14 - Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!**

**3. God does not want our help – He wants our faithfulness.**

**Abe and Sarai – God needs our help to get this moving… this is a FAIL.**

**God doesn’t need our help - He is not waiting for you to do something, no matter what any preacher says. This story is a great example of this.**

**God is self-sufficient and does all he will and plans. Even the failures of Abe and Sarai were at the allowance of God. Why?**

**God allows us to see our foolishness. We think our ideas and plans are better - so we try and help Him with our own wisdom and even unbelief. God allows it to reveal our insufficiency.**

**God uses our foolish mistakes to accomplish his perfect plan.**

**Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! 34 “Who has known the mind of the Lord? (no one) Or who has been his counselor?” (no one) 35 “Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?” (no one) 36 For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. (Every person exists by his allowance and for his will)**

**Trying to accomplish God’s work in our own efforts happens every Sunday. Pastors, worship leaders, & staff operating in their own abilities and ideas. The results: 1) hyped emotions that fade or 2) stale religion.**

**Learning to trust and wait is something we are learning every day.**

**But thankfully as we saw last week, God knowing we would fail – keeps the promises of redemption for both of us. - 2 Tim 2:13 - 13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful - for he cannot deny himself.**

**\*\* BTW - Notice the lack of prayer – Our - prayerlessness says a lot about who we think is in charge. God or us?**

**4. The results are never a justification for what we do**

**Whatever a man or woman attempts to do without God will be a miserable failure – or an even a more miserable success.**

**Abe got a son – but at what cost? Strife division and dysfunction in the family - and war. His “success” still today causes the death of 1000s.**

**The ends never justify the means. But we got money – a better house – a better job – but at what cost? The initial achievement is never the final grade. What are the long-term effects to your walk with God – your marriage – your family – your integrity.**

**5. Jesus is the only hero of this and every story!! (where’s Jesus!?)**

**Gen 16:7 The angel of the LORD (messenger – first use) found Hagar… 13 She gave this name to the LORD (THE Messenger) who spoke to her…**

**(first use) The messenger / ambassador of the LORD (YHVH) Appeared to her and talked to her… who was it?**

**(The) Messager was an appearance of the LORD – Jesus.**

**Known as a Christophany – How can we be sure of this?**

**John 1:18 No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.**

**1 Timothy 1:17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen. / 3:16 He (God) appeared in the flesh, (cross) was vindicated by the Spirit, (Resurrection) was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory. / 6:15 God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.**

**Colossians 1:15 - He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God… 19 For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him… 2:9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily…**

**This was the first of many more appearances: Angel = Messenger.**

* **The Angel of the LORD would later appear to Abraham (Genesis 22).**
* **The Angel of the LORD would later appear to Moses (Exodus 3).**
* **The Angel of the LORD would later appear to Balaam (Numbers 22).**
* **The Nagel of the LORD appeared to Joshua (Joshua 5).**
* **The Angel of the LORD would later appear to Israel collectively (Jud 2).**
* **The Angel of the LORD would later appear to Gideon (Judges 6).**
* **The Angel of the LORD would later appear to Samson’s parents (Jud 13).**
* **The Angel of the LORD would later appear to David (2 Samuel 24).**
* **The Angel of the LORD would later appear to Elijah (1 Kings 19).**
* **The Angel of the LORD would later appear to Zecheriah (Zecheriah 3).**

**The first appearance of the Angel of the LORD didn’t first appear to Noah or Enoch or Abram – but to a lonely destitute Egyptian mother-to-be with a pride problem.**

**Abraham (fell) Sarai (fell) Haggar (fell) - every person failed - But then here comes Jesus.**

**Gen 16:7 The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. 8 And he said, “Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?” “I’m running away from my mistress Sarai,” she answered. 9 Then the angel of the LORD told her, “Go back to your mistress and submit to her.”**

**\*\* You can’t outrun Jesus - v. 8 “I’m running away…”**

**She ran to the desert in the direction of Egypt, heading back to old life.**

**Two incredible questions:**

* **Where did I come from? He knew who she was and her past.**
* **Where am I going? He knew where she was going and needed.**

**God says, “I know you and everything you’ve done and gone through - from being traded off as a servant to now.”**

**God says still to the runners - Go home. I have a plan for you. Stop running and follow my Word and be faithful.**

**\*\* Jesus meets us like a stream in the desert.**

**16:7 The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert…**

**In our dry places – in our desperate places – in our moments of feeling abandoned and running from our decisions. Like a stream in the desert – in our broken places - Jesus is there.**

**\*\* Jesus hears you!**

**16:11 The angel of the LORD also said to her: “…You shall name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard of your misery.”**

**Know this – through Jesus, Ishmael - “God will hear”**

**Jesus hears the prayers of the humble through Jesus Christ. Are you hurting in misery? Jesus hears you – call upon him!**

**\*\* Jesus sees you!**

**16:13 She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: “You are the God who sees me,” for she said, “I have now seen the One who sees me.”**

**When you feel forgotten and abandoned – mistreated and misunderstood. El Roi is near – “the God who sees”**

**Jesus sees you and he cares about what you’re going through.**

**We see - Omnipresence – God is present everywhere simultaneously.**

**Omniscience – God has total knowledge of all things simultaneously.**

**Omnibenevolence – God of compassion even in our failures.**

**This prophecy to Israel – captures this passage's folly and challenge.**

**Jeremiah 17:5 This is what the Lord says: “Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh (including ourselves) and whose heart turns away from the LORD. 6 That person will be like a bush in the wastelands; they will not see prosperity when it comes. They will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt-land where no one lives.**

**7 “But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. 8 They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”**