

Sarah Lesson 7

INTRO:

- A. Sarah is one of the two females mentioned by name in Hebrews 11.
- B. She is the only woman recorded in the Bible that God Himself changed her name.
 - 1. Her former name Sarai means “my princess” which could have meant her honor was limited within a select group of people.
 - 2. God changed her name to Sarah, which means “a princess”.
 - a. This change is significant as she is to be the ‘mother’ of a great nation.
- C. Sarah is the wife of Abraham.
- D. Her story is filled with lessons that we all need to understand, learn, and imitate in our lives.
- E. While she made her mistakes, she is still considered to be faithful in the end and listed in Hebrews 11 along with other ‘heroes’ of faith.
- F. Because of this, It is important for us to look into her life and see her examples of faithfulness.

I. Lesson #1: Nothing Is Too Difficult For God.

- A. Despite Abraham and Sarah’s age and Sarah being barren, God promised them they would have a child in their old age.
 - 1. **(Genesis 18:10-12).**
- B. Because of this, God made a statement that anyone who believes in God must stop and consider. He said: “***Is anything too hard for the LORD?***” (verse 14)
 - 1. He is the supreme God of the universe and our Father at the same time.
 - 2. This is why with confidence He promised Abraham he and Sarah would have a son. Giving them a son was something God could easily do.
 - a. **Isaiah 46:8-11**
- C. God has made promises to us as we made note of in our study of Abraham and God cannot lie (Titus 1:2) and He is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

II. Lesson 2: We Never Know When Or How A Test Of Our Faith Might Occur.

- A. Like us, Sarah and Abraham were both humans and subject to human nature.
 - 1. In their day, it would have been a difficult thing for Sarah to deal with the humiliation of not being able to bear a child.
 - a. It was no doubt a tremendous mental burden for her with the fact that she was not being able to give Abraham an heir.
 - b. God first made the promise that they will have a son when Sarah was already 65 years old and passed the age of child bearing.
- B. Did they or did they not realize this was a test of their faith?
 - 1. God had promised them a child, but He did not tell them when.
 - 2. Days turned into weeks, weeks turned into months, and months turned into years and still no sign of a child for Abraham and Sarah.
 - 3. As they grow impatient, Sarah did what is right in her own eyes.
 - a. **(Genesis 16:2).**
 - b. Abraham eventually heeded the voice of Sarah.

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- C. Though this was a moment of weakness on the part of Sarah, we must realize faith does not come overnight.
 - 1. Sarah at first laughed when she heard she would have a child.
 - 2. However, in the course of time, Sarah eventually came to the realization that God is able to keep His promises.
 - 3. This is why we read **Hebrews 11:11-12**

III. Lesson #3: We Will Never Be Too Old To Be Tested By God.

- A. In our old age, we might become proud because of the many things we have already gone through.
 - 1. However, Christians will always be tested regardless of their age.
 - 2. This is certainly the case with Sarah.
- B. God started to work with Abraham when he was 75 years old. At this time, Sarah is 65 years old.
- C. Some Christians think that age puts them in a position where they have become better than others.
 - 1. While it is true older people have higher accountability because they should know better, we can see old people are still humans.
 - a. They are not perfect.
- D. No matter to what age group we belong, we need to look at the life of Sarah and be made to realize God does not play favorites.
 - 1. It doesn't mean if we are old, God will not test us anymore.
 - 2. We can see from the life of Sarah and learn that no matter what our age, the testing of our faith can still take place right up to the end of our lives.
- E. Let us always remember **I Corinthians 10:12**.

IV. Lesson #4: Wives Must Be Submissive To Their Husbands.

- A. Imagine if you are Sarah and your husband decides to leave everything you have known and journey to an unfamiliar place.
 - 1. How would you feel?
 - 2. This is exactly the situation Sarah faced when Abraham told her that they would be leaving the land of Ur.
- B. It could have been difficult for Sarah to follow her husband.
 - 1. Leaving Ur meant severing her ties with her family, not knowing if she would ever see them again, and then wandering in a wilderness.
 - 2. We know that the family of Abraham were idolaters. (**Joshua 24:2**).
 - a. They had not known the God of Abraham and this could also have been the case for Sarah.
- C. It could be that for the first time Sarah's mind is being opened to new truths and now, she has to act on her belief.
 - 1. This shows us that faith is not just about believing, but it should/must be doing.
- D. Sarah submitted to her husband. **1 Peter 3:1,6**
- E. For marriage to work, there must be someone who's to lead and that should/must be the husband.
 - 1. The wives must be willing to yield with respect and honor.

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2. From that, husbands and wives can work together to demonstrate the type of relationship between Christ and His church (Ephesians 5:22-33).

V. Lesson #5: True Faith Brings Happiness.

- A. The very meaning of "Isaac", Sarah's son, is 'laughter'.
 1. We read earlier Sarah laughed when she overheard she would bare a son in her old age (**Genesis 18:12**).
 - a. She even lied when asked by the LORD why she laughed (**v. 15**).
- B. We can see, through this testing of her faith, that Sarah transformed her faith from weakness to strength throughout the years of waiting.
 - a. Her laughter was a sign of doubt and unbelief to what the LORD had said to Abraham.
 - b. Instead of confessing the truth to the LORD because of her unbelief, she lied because she was afraid.
- C. However, we can see the faithfulness of Sarah to the promise made by God for we see in **Genesis 21:6-7** a definite change in her attitude.
- D. When our faith has been tested and proven true, we can have the tremendous and indescribable feeling of joy and blessedness.
 - a. This shows us that it is only through following God and keeping our faith strong that we will truly find genuine and lasting happiness.

CONCLUSION:

- A. One of the most important lessons we must learn is that God works on His timetable not ours.
- B. We can prevent a lot of our problems if we would only put our faith and trust in God as Sarah eventually did.
- C. Also, the answers we receive may not always be what we wish, especially when they come about in an unexpected way.
- D. However, despite upsets or disappointments, we must continually strive to be more like Sarah: faithful, loving, submissive, chaste, God-fearing, modest and with a beautiful and gentle spirit. (**1 Peter 3:4**)
- E. These are just some of the lessons we can learn from the life of Sarah.
- F. It was not an easy battle that Sarah fought.
- G. She had to fight the waves of doubts, fears, and uncertainties in her life to have her faith strengthened.
- H. Doesn't the same also hold true for us?

JAMES 1:2-4

*"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that **the trying of your faith worketh patience**. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."* (KJV)

*"Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that **the testing of your faith produces endurance**. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."* (NASB)