

**Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia**

**Bible Study - June 3, 2021**

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**Title: "When You Are Tired of Waiting"**

**Subtitle: "Giving Birth to Ishmael"**

**Scripture Reference: Genesis 16:3-4, 16**

**"And Sarai, Abrams wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife. And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes."**

**And Abram was fourscore and six years old, when Hagar bare Ishmael to Abram."**

**I. Introduction/Background and Context (Part I)**

A. Abram, who is better known as Abraham, wasn't getting any younger. He was eighty-five years old and would have been drawing Social Security for over two decades had he lived during our day and time.

B. Ten years had passed since God first promised he would have a son, but the stork still had not arrived. He had thought about adopting Eliezer (the steward of his house who was from Damascus to be his heir), but then God told Abram that his heir would come from his own body (Gen. 15:2-4).

C. So, his wife Sarai, whose name was later changed to Sarah, did what most of us do when we get tired of waiting for God to answer our prayers. She decided to figure out a way to fulfill the promise of God.

D. So, she went to Abram one day with her handmaiden and said (in so many words), "Abram, God said the heir would come through your body, but He didn't say anything about my body. Let's use

Hagar to fulfill God's promise. I've been barren for years, and I'm tired of waiting for the Lord to come through. After all, doesn't God expect us to do our part in fulfilling the promise?"

E. Well, Hagar conceived and gave birth to Ishmael. Little did Abram and Sarai know the problem this cute little baby boy would create in the generations to come.

F. One of Ishmael's descendants was Mohammed, who started the religion of Islam. From that cute, innocent looking baby, a whole race of people followed who are still fighting the Jewish people in the Middle East (in 2021).

## II. Introduction [Part II]

A. Whenever we grow impatient and refuse to wait for God's timing, we give birth to another Ishmael. And although our Ishmael looks innocent when he is first born, he will grow up and return to haunt us.

B. Do you ever get tired of waiting for God to answer your prayers? If we will admit it, sometimes, waiting can be frustrating.

C. Here is a little story that I want to share with you.

One man had a neighbor with a rooster that crowed three times a day and only three times. The man went to his neighbor and asked him to get rid of the rooster.

The neighbor answered, "He only crows three times a day. Is that too much?"

"No, that's not too much. But you don't know what I go through waiting to get that third crow over with!"

D. We are a little like that when we wait for God to answer our prayers. We believe He will send an answer, but it drives us

(figuratively) crazy, not knowing when the answer will come.

E. Many times, we want to rush God or make Him hurry up and answer our prayers. You might say, "Father God, can you make time go faster? I'm so tired of waiting. I'm anxious for my prayers to be answered. Please, make it arrive now."

F. Are you trying to hurry God into speeding up time (even though you know that you can't hurry or rush Almighty God). Never-the-less, here are some symptoms that reveal our impatience.

### **III. Exposition [Part I] - Symptom #1 - Trying to Help God**

A. Abram and Sarai tried to help God. God had promised them a son, but there was one problem; God didn't tell them how long they would have to wait? (Solid Rock - Are you listening?)

B. One year passed, then two, then five years went by. Eight years then ten. Abram was eighty-five now and Sarai was at the ripe old age of seventy-five.

C. After a decade of waiting, there was a decision that it was time to do something. Abram and Sarai knew that God had promised a son, but it was difficult for them to comprehend how a baby could be born from a barren womb. So, they decided God needed a little help in accomplishing His promise.

**Comment:** We always get into trouble when we step out on our own and we try to help God out.

D. We may think we are helping God but what we are really doing is making things more difficult for ourselves. Abram and Hagar would end up with a baby named Ishmael as a result of helping God out.

E. We will also end up with an Ishmael in our lives if we don't wait on God's perfect plan and timing.

### **IV. Exposition [Part II] - Symptom #2 - Overstepping The Boundaries**

- A. In 1 Samuel 10:8 and 13:8-12, Samuel told Saul to go to Gilgal and wait seven days until he arrived. Upon arrival, Samuel would then sacrifice a burnt offering to the Lord.
- B. Saul waited seven days but thought he couldn't wait any longer. He thought he had some good reasons for not waiting any longer.
  - 1. The Philistines were getting ready to attack, and
  - 2. His own people were deserting him.
- C. Rather than wait for Samuel, Saul sacrificed the burnt offering. He overstepped his boundaries as king. (Cf. Hebrews 5:1-4 ((Let's read this passage together.)) [**Stay in your lane!**]

**Comment:** Saul thought Samuel was going to be late, but in reality, Saul was impatient and sacrificed prematurely. [Notice Saul's justification for why he did what he had done in 1 Samuel 13:12 - "... I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering."]

- D. We grow impatient because we think God is late. The reality is - we are just too early. As a result, we overstep our boundaries and do forbidden things, justifying those things in our minds.
- E. We can sometimes give our rationale like Saul - The Philistines are coming, the people are scattering, and Samuel hasn't arrived. Therefore, we take matters into our own hands and we always lose because of it.

## V. Exposition - [Part III] - Symptom #3 -

### We Become Restless and Irritable

- A. If we don't rest in the Lord, we become restless.
- B. We become impatient with others; we may even be on the verge of panic. We may even expect God to fax the answer to our prayers. We may even start to wonder if God has forgotten about our request or maybe He just doesn't care.
- C. This frustration will manifest itself in our irritable behavior. However, we need to remember that God will come through for us

on His timetable.

**Point:** Restlessness occurs when we want God's timetable to match ours, rather than ours matching His.

## **VI. Exposition [Part IV] - Why Should We Wait on the Lord?**

A. God does not want us to wait on Him because He likes to see us squirm. He has good reasons for us to wait.

**Point:** those who want instant gratification usually don't want to wait for God's provisions.

B. God is more concerned about us receiving His best rather than when we will get it. There are several reasons why God wants us to wait.

**Reason # 1** - We may not be ready for what God has for us.

1. God uses the waiting period for us to straighten out our priorities so that the right ones can rise to the top of our list.
2. Sometimes waiting periods are designed to get us ready for the blessing that God has planned.
3. If we are not ready, we might not appreciate it at best or even destroy the blessing at worst.

**Reason # 2** - What God has planned for us may not be ready

1. God may still be in the process of preparing what we are praying for. He may be doing some things "behind the scenes" that we are not aware of.
2. The people, events, and situations involved in God's plan, may not yet be in place. We must wait for His timing to bring these things together.

### **Example:**

The greatest musicians in the world may come together to play the most beautiful song in the world. However, if the musicians' timing is

off because they are not watching the conductor, it will be total confusion.

Point: Timing can make the difference between something being beautiful or chaotic.

**Reason # 3** - God is using the waiting period to develop patience within us

1. Patience means "to abide under" or "to stand up under pressure." If you begin exercising on a weight training program, lifting seventy-five pounds might be difficult at first.
  - (a) You may have to struggle to lift it over your head, but as you continue to work out, you get stronger. Eventually, you will improve to the point of being able to lift one hundred pounds.
  - (b) If you continue to make progress, you will be able to lift 150 pounds over your head. At this point, you have developed the ability to "stand up under pressure."
2. When we wait on the Lord, he will renew our strength (Isaiah 40:31).

**Reason # 4** - God wants to do a greater miracle for us

1. In John Chapter 11, Jesus arrived at Bethany four days after Lazarus had died. Mary and Martha thought Jesus had made a mistake by not showing up according to their timetable.
2. If Jesus had arrived sooner, He would have healed Lazarus. However, by purposely delaying His arrival, He demonstrated an even greater miracle.
3. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead! God's delays are not His denials. Sometimes He wants to do something greater than we expected.

## VII. Specific Guidance - How Do We Wait on The Lord?

A. David knew what it was to wait on the Lord. He penned the following words of wisdom for all of the future generations, instructing us how to wait.

**Trust** in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. **Delight** thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. **Commit** thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. **Rest** in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: ...." (Psalm 37:3-5, 7a)

B. Notice the five things we are told to do when we are waiting:

- **First**, trust in the Lord, no matter what the circumstances may look like. God has not forgotten your request, because he is faithful. trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding.
- **Second**, delight thyself in the Lord. To delight yourself in the Lord means to find your pleasure in God.
- **Third**, commit thy way unto the Lord. Committing your way unto the Lord means you put your life, your plans, and your future in God's hands.
- **Finally**, rest in the Lord as you patiently wait. Don't worry or fret if everyone else has already received answers to their prayers but you haven't.

**Comment:** When you rest, you remove the deadline you have placed on God; All stress is gone. You can't and you won't worry when you are resting in the loving care of Almighty God!

## VIII. Summary

A. Abraham and Sarah finally lived to see the son God promised. Abraham was one hundred years old, and Sarah was ninety when she gave birth to Isaac. Twenty-five years had passed since God first made the promise to them, but our God is the original Promise Keeper!

B. Even though your situation looks impossible, just remember, circumstances don't matter to God!

C. Also remember, don't get ahead of God, and give birth to another Ishmael. Wait for the Isaac that God has promised for you.

It is once again interactive time. Please complete the Scripture passages that follow by filling in the blank spaces. All passages have been taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible.

"For we are saved by \_\_\_\_\_: but \_\_\_\_\_ that is seen is not \_\_\_\_\_: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet \_\_\_\_\_ for? But if we \_\_\_\_\_ for that we see not, then we with \_\_\_\_\_ wait for it."

[Romans 8:24,25]

"For ye have need of \_\_\_\_\_, that \_\_\_\_\_ ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the \_\_\_\_\_."

[Hebrews 10:36]

"\_\_\_\_\_ on the Lord; be of good \_\_\_\_\_, and he shall \_\_\_\_\_ thine heart: \_\_\_\_\_ I say, on the Lord."

[Psalm 27:14]

"Therefore, my \_\_\_\_\_ brethren, be ye \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, always \_\_\_\_\_ in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your \_\_\_\_\_ is not in \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord."

[1 Corinthians 15:58]

**QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER  
AND  
LEARNING TO WAIT PATIENTLY**

1. Have you placed your situation in *God's* hand and asked Him to guide you?
  
2. Have you ever placed a deadline on prayer a request to *God*?
  - a. If yes, do you now realize that since you have given the situation over to *God*, you must not put a deadline on Him but patiently wait for His Answer?