

Mother's Day Sermon 2020 - Help for the Hopeless Genesis 21:11-21 - Hagar and Ishmael

10 most common causes of hopelessness (from Rick Warren):

1. When you feel alone/abandoned.
2. When life seems out of control.
3. When you do not see purpose
4. When you are grieving a loss
5. When you don't have what you need
6. When you've done something wrong, (Guilt, shame, regret, remorse)
7. When you have been deeply wounded by someone (abuse, sin, slander)
8. When you are pulled in the wrong direction. (When you keep giving into temptation - addiction to porn, drugs, alcohol, bad habits)
9. When you are hounded by fear.
10. When it looks like defeat.

Context - There is no soap opera like what you will read in Genesis.

In Genesis 12:1-4 - God calls Abraham out of Babylon - he is 75 years old, and tells him he will be the father of a great nation. He takes his wife Sarai - who is 65 years old and they leave for the land of Canaan.

Now God has promised them a child, but when you read the next 10 chapters - they do a lot of silly things to take matters into their hands to make this child happen.

Twice on his journey, Abraham lies and gives Sarah to other men saying that she is his sister- some commentators believe that he did this in hopes of having a child by means of other men.

In Chapter 16 - Sarah convinces Abraham to have a child with her slave - Hagar. Hagar gives birth to Abraham's son, Ishmael, but we learn that Ishmael is not to be the promised child of the blessing.

In chapter 18 - Sarah laughs at the angel (Jesus) who clearly tells her that she will be the one to birth the child. She laughs because she is past the age of having children.

Here we are in chapter 21 - Abraham is now 100 years old. Sarah is 90 years old. God has taken 25 years to fulfill his promise. It is an absolute miracle. They call their son Isaac.

If you have been rejected, hopeless and hurting...

1. _____ **to God's Proclamations (vs. 14-17)**
2. _____ **upon God's Promises (vs. 18)**
3. _____ **for God's Provisions (vs. 19-21)**

10 Reasons for hope that we get from the Lords Prayer (from Rick Warren):

1. When I am feeling all alone, I will remember my loving father will never abandon me.
2. When life seems out of control, I need to remember that God's power is greater than any problem (there is power in the name of God)
3. When I am confused, I need to remember that God fits everything in his plan. (his plan is called the Kingdom of God)
4. When I am grieving, I need to remember that God has a greater purpose for my life. (Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven)
5. When I am worried about not having enough, I need to remember that God has promised to meet all of your needs (Give us this day our daily bread)
6. When I feel guilty, I need to remember that Jesus died to pay for all that I have done wrong (forgive us our debts)
7. When I have been hurt, I need to remember that God will settle the score some day. (As we forgive our debtors)
8. When I feel powerless to break through temptations, I need to remember that God has promised to help me. (Lead us not into temptation)
9. When I feel threatened, I need to remember that Jesus in me is greater than any other power (deliver us from evil)
10. When I feel defeated, I need to remember that this is not the end of the story (For yours is the kingdom and the power and the Glory forever)