**Family Secrets – Gen 21:14**

**Gen. 21 – Family blessing – Family separation**

Nothing is more joyful than family laughter & celebration!

Nothing is more painful than family division & separation!

**Focal Truth: Doing God’s will produces joy - disobeying God’s will produces lasting pain**

**Observations**

1. **Abraham struggles with God’s will about a son 17:18**

*Oh that Ismael might live before you!*

1. Abraham’ will was for Ismael – son of the flesh to be the son of promise – 17:18
2. God’s will would be accomplished in Isaac as the son of promise – 17: 15 -17
3. God promised to bless in mercy Ismael the son of the flesh – 17:20

**Consider**

1. *God never forgets His promises*
2. *God always fulfills His promises*
3. *God is merciful even toward the disobedient*

Heb. 10:23 – *hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful*

1. **God blesses Abraham & Sarah with Isaac the son of promise – 21:1 -8**

*Then the Lord took note of Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as He had promised. So, Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time of which God had spoken to Him 21:1 -2*

1. God did what He promised – Sarah gave birth to Isaac in old age – 21:1
2. Abraham circumcised him in obedience to God’s command – 21:4
3. Sarah laughed joyfully over the child of promise Isaac – 21:8
4. Abraham gave a feast when Isaac was weaned – 21:9
5. God gave Isaac the promised to Abraham & Sarah 25 yrs. after they left Ur!

**Consider**

1. *The joy of the Lord comes in trusting in God’s promises*
2. *A joyful heart is good medicine – Pr. 17:22*
3. *A joyful heart makes a cheerful face – pr. 15:13*
4. **Ismael the son of flesh mocks Isaac the son of promise – 21:9 -10**

*Now Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, mocking, therefore she said to Abraham, drive out this maid and her son, for the son of this maid shall not be an heir with my son Isaac*

1. Ishmael the son of flesh, mocks Isaac the son of promise – 21:9
2. Sarah demands Abraham to remove Ishmael the son of flesh & his mother from the house – 21:10
3. Abraham is distressed & grieved by her demand – 21:11

**Consider**

1. *The whole family was laughing joyfully over Isaac – Sarah is laughing - sahaq*
2. *Ismael was laughing with mocking over Isaac – Ishmael is laughing mockingly -sahaq*
3. *Ismael the 14 yr. old son of the flesh is mocking baby Isaac the son of promise*
4. *Sarah demands Abraham to “get rid” = drive them out! 21:10*
5. *Ishmael is not mentioned by name in Gen. 21 – he has lost his position as Abraham’s son*
6. **Abraham sends Ismael away – God blesses Ismael the son of the flesh – 21:12 -21**

*So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar, putting them on her shoulder, and gave her the boy, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beersheba 21:14*

*God was with the lad, and he grew, and he lived in the wilderness and became an archer 21:20*

1. God assured Abraham not to be distressed from removing Ishmael the son of flesh from the house – 21:12

*God said, do not be distressed because of the lad and your maid; whatever Sarah tells you, listen to her, for through Isaac your descendants shall be named*

1. God promises to make Ishmael the son of the flesh a great nation – 21:13
2. Abraham sends Ismael the son of the flesh & Hagar his wife away with bread & water 21:14
3. **God who hears & sees - hears Ismael the son of the flesh and Hagar in their distress 21:15 -21**

*God heard the lad crying, and the angel of God, called to Hagar from heaven and said, to her, what is the matter with you Hagar? Do not fear, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is. 21:17*

God heard the boy crying – 21:17

God assures Hagar of God’s mercy 21:17

1. God was with Ishmael and blessed Him – 21:20

*God was with the lad, and he grew…*

**Consider**

1. *Abraham lived with grief, regret & pain in removing Ishmael son of flesh from his life*
2. *Abraham suffered the pain of disobeying God’s will & God’s ways –* ***consequences of disobedience***
3. *Disobeying God produces painful choices that leave lasting regret*
4. *Abraham never saw Ismael again*
5. *The Isaac and Ishmael buried Abraham together when he died – Gen. 25:9*
6. *God was a father to Ishmael who lost his father*
7. *God was the provider for Ishmael who lost his provider*
8. *God sees & hears everyone in their distress & pain*

**Things to Remember & Do**

1. Doing God’s will is trusting God’s promises in Christ
2. Doing God’s will is obeying God’s word in our personal & family life

*Husbands love your wife as Christ loved the church*

*Wives submit to your husbands in the fear of the Lord*

*Children obey your parents*

*Bring up your children in the fear and instruction of the Lord*

1. Doing God’s will is waiting on God’s timing & ways of grace & mercy
2. God’s will may not be understood but must be obeyed!
3. Disobeying God’s will brings lasting painful consequences

*Then the Lord took note of Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as He had promised. So, Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time of which God had spoken to Him*

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**