

## FAULTS & FAITH: Sarah

Andy Deane · 8/18/2024 · Genesis 12-21

### #1 When you don't know where God is leading you (focus on the God who leads you)

Genesis 12:1-5, 1 *The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you [1,426 miles]. 2 "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."* 4 *So Abram went...and...was 75 years old when he set out....* 5 *He took his wife Sarai...* (John 8:12)

### #2 Even though others may lead you astray (they can't lead you to a place where God is absent)

Genesis 12:10-19, 10...*Abram went...to Egypt...for a while because the famine was severe. 11 ... he said to his wife Sarai, "I know what a beautiful woman you are. 12 ...the Egyptians...will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me... 13 Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake"... 15 And when Pharaoh's officials saw her...she was taken into his palace... 17 But the Lord inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram's wife Sarai. 18 So Pharaoh summoned Abram... 19 Why did you say, 'She is my sister'...? Now then...Take her and go!"...* (Psalm 23:4)

### #3 Great disappointment can lead to great desperation (so find contentment in God while you wait)

Genesis 16:1-16, 1 ...*Sarai...2 said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her."* Abram agreed...[&] *slept with Hagar, and she conceived...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. May the Lord judge between you and me."* 6 ...*Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her...9 The angel of the Lord told her, "Go back to your mistress...I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count."... 13 She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me,"... 16 Abram was 86 years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.* (Psalm 25:3 & 1 Timothy 6:6)

### #4 Past mistakes don't disqualify us from future blessing (but today's faithfulness is required)

Genesis 17:1-5; 15-17, 1 *When Abram was 99 years old, the Lord appeared...and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. 2 Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers...this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. 5 No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations... 15 God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. 16 I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations..." 17 Abraham... laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a 100 years old? Will Sarah bear a child at...90?"...*

Genesis 18:10-14, 10 *Then one of them said, "I will...return to you...this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son."* Now...12 *So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and [Abraham] is old, will I now have this pleasure?" 13 Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh... 14 Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you...and Sarah will have a son."*

### #5 Our faults fade in the light of God's faithfulness (making the future brighter than we could ever imagine)

Genesis 21:1-7, 1 *Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah..., and...did...what he had promised. 2 Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age... 3 Abraham gave the name Isaac ["he laughs"] to the son Sarah bore him...5 Abraham was a 100 years old... 6 Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." 7 And she added, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have..."*

### The Gospel Illustrated by Sarah's Faith

Hebrews 11:11; 13, *And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise... 13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.* (Romans 4:3, 18)

**THIS WEEK:** Genesis 12:2, ...*you will be a blessing*...

- **B**egin with prayer
- **L**isten
- **E**at
- **S**erve
- **S**hare

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