

Galatians – Lesson 27

Galatians 4:21-31

February 16, 2025

This morning we will look at **Gal. 4:24-31** to see how Paul uses Sarah and Hagar allegorically to illustrate the difference between spiritual **freedom** and spiritual **slavery**>>

v.24-25 Hagar, the example of spiritual **slavery**>>

*Hagar represents the Old Covenant at Sinai and ...the present Jerusalem... because she is in **slavery** with her children...>>*

Paul is saying that those who believe that they can be justified by ...*the works of the law*... are like the **enslaved** children of Hagar>>

After the Lord freed Israel from their Egyptian bondage, He led them to Sinai where He entered into covenant with them>>

The Lord gave them the Law of the Covenant to keep Israel **free** through the ...*obedience of faith*... **[Rom.1:5]**>>

In this way, Israel would experience the **freedom** of resting in the Lord's way of blessing them>>

However, the Judaizers were using the Law **unlawfully**>>

<<by placing the church under the bondage of ...*the works of the law*...>>

The Judaizers were enslaving the church to their own works>>

In this way, the church would be like the enslaved children of Hagar>>

v.26-27>>Sarah is example of a ...*free woman*...>>

*But the Jerusalem above is **free**; she is our mother. 27 For it is written:*

"REJOICE, BARREN WOMAN WHO DOES NOT BEAR; BREAK FORTH AND SHOUT, YOU WHO ARE NOT IN LABOR; FOR MORE NUMEROUS ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE DESOLATE THAN OF THE ONE WHO HAS A HUSBAND."

Why was Sarah an example of a ...free woman...>>

Heb 11:11 By **faith** even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful Who had promised.

If Sarah believed God's promise, why did she laugh>>

Gen 18:10-12 ...[the Lord] said, ...Sarah your wife will have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; Sarah was past childbearing. **12** Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?"

Sarah laughed because she believed God's promise>>

<<Her's was the laughter of surprise>>

<<I can't believe that I will become a mother>>

<<the same question that Mary asked the angel: how will this be seeing that I am a virgin...[**Luke 1:34**]>>

The fruit of Sarah's faith in God's Word of promise was the birth of Isaac through whom God would keep His promise to Abraham to bless the nations [**Gen 22:18**]>>

Gen 26:4 ...[the Lord told Isaac] ...through your descendants [*Seed-Gal.3:16;Gen.3:15*] all nations will be blessed [**Gen.1:28**], because you have obeyed [**Rom. 1:5**] me."
v.28-31 Paul explains how this allegory applies to the church>>

28 And you brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise. **29** But as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so it is now also.

As Ishmael persecuted Sarah [**Gen 21:9**], those of ...the works of the flesh... will persecute those of the Spirit>>

Gen 21:10 records Sarah's response>>

...and [Sarah] said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac."

In **v.30**, Paul reminds them of Sarah's response to this persecution>>

But what does the Scripture say? "**CAST OUT THE BONDWOMAN AND HER SON, FOR THE SON OF THE BONDWOMAN SHALL NOT BE AN HEIR WITH THE SON OF THE FREE WOMAN.**"

In **v.31**, Paul tells the believers>>

31 So then, brethren, we are not children of a **bond**woman, but of the **free** woman...>

Paul has now completed his Biblical argument against the Judaisers>>

To **rely** on ...the works of the Law... for our justification results in **slavery**>>

To **live** by ...faith.. in the promises of God results in **freedom**>>

Now we are ready to listen to how Paul applies this lesson in **ch.5-6**>>