

Pastor Ron Case
9/25/16

“Vicissitudes of Life”

Abraham (Part 15)

“In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.”
(Ecclesiastes 7:14)

Good Times

Genesis 21:1-8 – (1) “The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised. (2) And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. (3) Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. (4) And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. (5) Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. (6) And Sarah said, ‘God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me.’ (7) And she said, ‘Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age’ (8) And the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.”

Hard Times

Genesis 21:9-14 – (9) “***But*** Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, laughing. (10) So she said to Abraham, ‘Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not be heir with my son Isaac.’ (11) And the thing was very displeasing to Abraham on account of his son. (12) But God said to Abraham, ‘Be not displeased because of the boy and because of your slave woman. Whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for through Isaac shall your offspring be named. (13) And I will make a nation of the son of the slave woman also, because he is your offspring.’ (14) So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.”

God is with me in the Ups & Downs of Life
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Marriage Mixture: Double Blessing/Double Trouble

“He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.” (Proverbs 18:22)

“But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this.” (1 Corinthians 7:28 NIV)

The Stance of the Mature

“Then [Job’s] wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.’ But he said to her, ‘You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?...” (Job 2:9-10)

“Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:11-13)

Questions to Ponder:

- (1) What impacted me most from this message?**
 - (2) Am I free from the burden of unrealistic expectations regarding life?**
 - (3) Can I praise God in the good times and the hard times?**
- (Habakkuk 3:17-18)**

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)