Wednesday, September 19, 2018

Dr. Ricky Cummings

Series: Rescued by God – A Study of Genesis 12-50

Sermon: New Birth

Genesis 21:1-13

The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised.  And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him.  Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac.  And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.  Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.  And Sarah said, “God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me.”  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.”  And the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.

John 3:3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

The relationship between Isaac’s physical birth and God’s salvation (a spiritual birth):

1. A Supernatural Birth

   Genesis 21:2,5,7 And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him.  Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.  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.”

   Romans 4:18-22 In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.”  He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb.  No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.  That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.”

2. God divinely intervenes.

   Genesis 21:1 The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised.

   Ephesians 2:1-5 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.  But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

3. A birth is always something special!

   Genesis 21:3 Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac.

   Genesis 17:17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, “Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?”

   Genesis 18:12 So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?”

   Genesis 21:6 And Sarah said, “God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me.”
Luke 15:10 (ESV) Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Luke 10:20 (ESV) Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

Genesis 21:6 (ESV) And Sarah said, “God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me.”

Illustration of Separation

Galatians 4:22-24 (ESV) 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. 23 But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. 24 Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. 

- Ishmael represents flesh, while Isaac represents Spirit.

Ephesians 2:3 (ESV) among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Galatians 5:19-21 (ESV) 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Romans 8:5 (ESV) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

- Isaac was the Faith-Child illustrating the New Man.

Galatians 4:23 (ESV) But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise.

John 3:6-7 (ESV) 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’

- The Flesh must be conquered!

Romans 13:14 (ESV) But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

2 Corinthians 7:1 (ESV) Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

- The Flesh must be crucified!

Genesis 21:11 (ESV) And the thing was very displeasing to Abraham on account of his son.

Romans 8:13 (ESV) For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Galatians 5:24 (ESV) And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.