



Bond vs Free

Galatians 4:21-31

Paul's 6th Argument

- What does Paul scold the Galatians for?
 - Wanting the law without listening to it or understanding it!

Abraham's children

- Age 75 - Abraham called to go to Canaan. God promises him many descendants. (Gen. 12:1-9)
- Age 85 - Sarah convinces Abraham to father a child with her handmaiden Hagar. (Gen. 16:1-4)
- Age 86 - Hagar becomes pregnant and Sarah becomes jealous. (Gen. 16:15-16)
- Age 99 - God again promises Abraham he will have a son by Sarah and will call his name Isaac. (Gen. 17:1-22)
- Age 100 - Isaac is born (Gen. 21:1-7)

The Flesh vs the Promise

- Did the fact that Abraham was his father change the status of Ishmael?
 - No. Ishmael was Abraham's son, but he was also a slave, a point that Sarah makes and God reinforces. (Gen. 21:9-12)
- Ishmael's birth was 'of the flesh' -- not supernatural. Isaac's birth was 'of the promise' and showed God's hand at work. (Romans 4:16-25, Hebrews 11:11-12)

What is an allegory?

- 1. a.) The representation of abstract ideas or principles by characters, figures, or events in narrative, dramatic, or pictorial form. (b.) A story, picture, or play employing such.
- 2. A symbolic representation: The blindfolded figure with scales is an allegory of justice.
- *allegoreo* - verb - allegory. In this context, a historical account with a spiritual lesson/truth

Unravelling the Allegory

- Which woman represented the Old law? Why?
 - Hagar. She was the slave and so was her child.
 - Hagar was Mt. Sinai. The place where the law was born.
- Why is the law slavery?
 - The law offers no salvation -- only condemnation.

Hagar

Bond woman

Ishmael - the child after flesh

The Old Covenant

The earthly Jerusalem

Those enslaved under the Law

Sarah

Free woman

Isaac- the child of promise

The New Covenant

The Heavenly Jerusalem

Those born free in Christ

Our mother

- It is more important, allegorically speaking, who our mother is than who our father is.
- The Pharisees always claimed Abraham (John 8:39) as father, but were equally proud to claim 'present Jerusalem' as their 'mother' and themselves as slaves to the law with their mother.
- Christians claim a heavenly Jerusalem and the freedom found outside of the law the Pharisees and Judaizers were pedaling.

Barren woman

- ↪ What Old Testament scripture is quoted in verse 27?
- ↪ Isaiah 54:1

Application

- Ishmael persecuted (mocked) Isaac
 - You who are born of the Spirit are persecuted by those born of the flesh
 - Sarah wanted the bond woman cast out with her child. God told Abraham to listen to Sarah.
- Was Paul telling the Galatians to 'cast out' all Jews or someone/something specific?
 - The Judaizers (the bond woman) and the law (her son) which leads slavery.

Ishmael's rejection

- Many Jews historically viewed God's rejection of Ishmael as rejection of all Gentiles.
- Paul uses this allegory to show God's rejection of Jews with an 'Ishmael' mentality (doing things man's way)
- Those who do things God's way are children of the free woman.

What was Paul's Point?

Spiritual FREEDOM!

Only found in Christ Jesus



Next week

➤ Galatians 5:1-18