



Jesus, You & Me: Better Together (Part 5)
The Mixed Bag
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Genesis 16:7-13 NIV
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Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into A LIVING HOPE through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
-1 Peter 1:3 NIV

THE BIG IDEA:
Jesus' resurrection renews life and gives our community a living hope.

A Mixed Bag:

A miscellaneous collection, having both positive and negative qualities or aspects.

THREE LESSONS FROM HAGAR'S LIFE:

1. PEOPLE CAN BECOME THE VICTIMS OF OUR CHOICES.

Sarah got impatient and made a solution.
Sarah was a woman who got the job done, even if it wasn't right.

- "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a dream fulfilled is a tree of life." - Proverbs 13:12 NLT

Sarah couldn't see the provision, all she saw was the problem.
Her mixed bag was more like an empty bag.

We need to be careful regarding the choices we make.

Is our impatience causing us to make decisions that could be damaging to others and the future?

God can turn around the hurt that we've experienced or the hurt that we have caused and use it as a testimony of His power.

Wrong choices bring discord to our lives, but if we are committed to the Lord, He enables us to grow in the midst of it.

2. FACE INTO PROBLEMS.

It's typical to experience hard times and our automatic response is to escape back to a place where things made sense.

- "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?" - Genesis 16:8

There's something transformative that happens when we can verbalize the problem.

If we seek to change our circumstances, we will jump from the frying pan into the fire. We must be triumphant exactly where we are. Bloom where you are planted. It is not a change of climate we need, but a change of heart. The flesh wants to run away, but God wants to demonstrate His power exactly where we have known our greatest humiliation.

- “Be assured that the testing of your faith [through experience] produces endurance [leading to spiritual maturity, and inner peace]. And let endurance have its perfect result and do a thorough work, so that you may be perfect and completely developed [in your faith], lacking in nothing.”
- James 1:3-4 AMP

3. GOD SEES YOU AND HE IS FAITHFUL.

***God knew Hagar by name. He looked at her as a person, someone called for divine purposes.
He saw her real plight and cared for her.***

- “She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: ‘You are the God who sees me,’ for she said, ‘I have now seen the One who sees me.’” - Genesis 16:13 NIV

In Hagar’s mixed bag of motherhood, she found God, who in the midst of the highs and lows held her together, provided for her and was faithful to her when others were not.

***In the same way, God sees your pain. He sees your trials and He calls you by name.
What is your response?***

God’s Promises for You:

- For moms who are waiting for the prodigal child to come home, God is faithful to His promise of return. (Proverbs 22:6)
- For moms, daughters and sons who suffer with loss, God is faithful to fulfill His promise of comfort. (Matthew 5:4)
- For sons and daughters who struggle with infertility, God is faithful to fulfill His promise of provision. (Philippians 4:19)
- For daughters and sons, who have strained relationships with their moms, God is faithful to fulfill His promise of peace. (Matthew 5:9)
- For moms who are overwhelmed with the responsibilities of life, God is faithful to fulfill his promise of rest. (Matthew 11:28)

Jesus is the fulfillment of all of God’s promises. Our mixed bag may be filled with more lows than highs, but when we invite Jesus in, he makes everything better.