

Walking with God

6. Walking Away from God's Best Genesis 16

Happy Families??

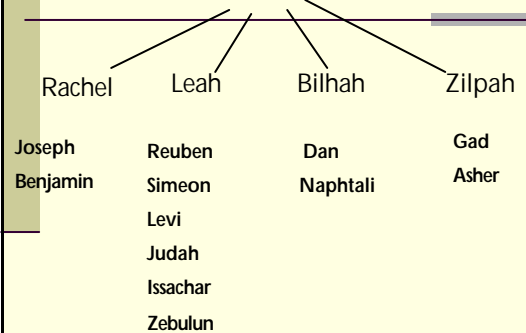


What went wrong??

1. Abraham was IMMORAL??

- Unfaithful to Sarah
- But..... Polygamy was considered acceptable at that time.

Jacob and the "children of Israel"



What went wrong??

2. Abraham was DISOBEDIENT??

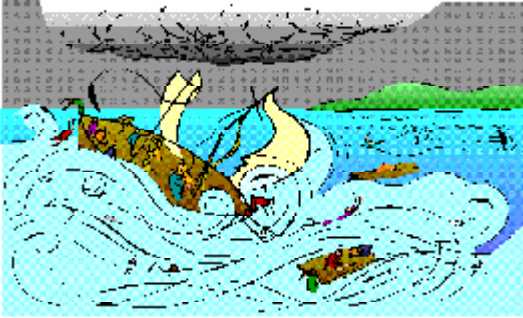
- BUT... God promised a son to Abraham: he didn't say anything about it being through Sarah.

What went wrong??

3. Abraham was UNTRUSTING??

- He should have trusted God and not tried to fulfil God's promise in his own way
- BUT.....

Trust and action go together...



Ishmael: "God hears"...

- Hagar's misery – Genesis 16: 11
- Abraham's love for his son – Gen. 17: 20
- Ishmael's cries – Gen. 21:17

Reasons for the mess!

Characters

1. Hagar – contempt, not compassion.
2. Sarah – resentment, not responsibility

Consequences

1. Ishmael grows up in a civil war
2. *"He will live in hostility towards all his brothers"*

When people hurt us : the choice

- Resentment
- Bitter
- Give it to God
- Let God soften our heart
- Compassion
- Better
- Hold on to it
- Become hard

Reasons for the mess!

Characters

1. Hagar – contempt, not compassion.
2. Sarah – resentment, not responsibility
3. Abraham – abdication, not leadership

Consequences

- Leadership is taken by the troubled and dysfunctional!

Our responsibility...

- To pray for those concerned
- To ask, "What can I do (or stop doing) that will make this better?"

God's action...

1. God keeps working for good in lousy situations!
 - Protects Hagar and Ishmael
 - Blesses Abram and Sarah
 - *"In all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to his purpose."* – Romans 8: 28

God's action...

1. God keeps working for good in lousy situations!
2. He teaches the secret of forgiveness and healing

Forgiveness and healing...

Through Joseph

- Confrontation with truth
- Repentance and turnaround
- Forgiveness and release

Forgiveness and healing in Jesus...

"He himself carried our sins in his body on the tree..... Christ died for sins, once for all, to bring you to God"

1 Peter 2: 24 + 3: 18

