



Sunday, January 3, 2010: Thirsty Souls and Living Water

Scripture: Genesis 21:8-20

Speaker: Joe Boot

Sermon Notes:

1. Abraham's name itself was cause for an exercise of faith, as it means "Father of many", yet he had no child.
2. When Isaac is weaned tension forms because Ishmael mocks him; Sarah then asks that Ishmael be disinherited.
3. Ishmael is still loved as Abraham's son. But at God's prompting Abraham complies with Sarah's request.
4. When people reject the things of God, whether knowingly or unknowingly they reap destruction. Mocking God has the consequence of covenantal separation from God.
5. In our culture we're reaping the consequences of mocking God: a generation of aimlessness and despair.
6. We're either children of the slave woman or the free woman through Christ.
7. Hagar, alienated in the desert, represents the human condition: without God and without hope in the world. Ephesians 2:12.
8. Biblically, there is an antithesis: outside God or for God.
9. Where people are most pressed together in the city, community is most lacking as individuals seek anonymity.
10. We should be moved with compassion by the emptiness and alienation in the lives of those around us.
11. People without the promises of God live in despair, loneliness.
12. Alienation from God leads to alienation from one another.
13. The God of heaven and earth hears Ishmael's voice of distress. Genesis 21:17.
14. In a world ravaged by Sin, there's not a single child whose voice God does not hear.
15. The Angel of God (the pre-incarnate Christ) comforts Hagar.
16. The need for salvation is met through water that God provides.
17. In John 4, Jesus offers living water to a Samaritan woman, bringing salvation to someone outside the covenant.
18. God opens our eyes to see the offer of living water in Christ.
19. "Sinners lick the dust of sin, rather than seeking living water in Christ." -Pascal
20. As we reverence the Lord, we seek to persuade others to seek after the Lord and find Him.
21. Voltaire rejected the faith because he would not humble himself before God's providence.
22. Even God speaking from heaven won't convince the skeptic.
23. Unless you become as a little child, you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven.
24. Yet, you are not required to leave your mind at the edge of the kingdom; rather be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
25. The provision of God was real for satisfying the needs of Ishmael.
26. God has the right to pour out the riches of His glory for those He destined to be objects of mercy. Romans 9.
27. God wants you to bring a neighbour or a colleague into His Kingdom this year.
28. Commit to pray and fast for that person. Share the good news of Christ with them.

Application Questions:

1. What does mocking God lead to in one's life?
2. What is the human condition without God according to Ephesians 2:12?
3. How does alienation from God affect interpersonal relationships?
4. What does John 12:29 demonstrate about the relationship between unbelief and empirical evidence for God?
5. Explain the metaphor of the slave woman in Galatians 4:21-31?
6. How can I be a living letter this week, serving the Lord visibly before the world by my Christian life?
7. Specifically, will you pray for opportunities to reach someone who does not know Christ? How can you serve and meet the needs of this person this week?