### NOVEMBER 10, 2024 A TALE OF TWO WOMEN

Pastor Roger Poupart // Galatians 4:21-31



#### **PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND**

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.

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21 Tell me, you who want to be under law, do you not listen to the law? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondwoman and one by the free woman. 23 But the son by the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and the son by the free woman through the promise. 24 This is allegorically speaking, for these women are two covenants: one proceeding from Mount Sinai bearing children who are to be slaves; she is Hagar. 25 Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. 26 But the Jerusalem above is free; she is our mother. 27 For it is written,

"Rejoice, barren woman who does not bear;

Break forth and shout, you who are not in labor;

For more numerous are the children of the desolate

Than of the one who has a husband."

28 And you brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise. 29 But as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so it is now also. 30 But what does the Scripture say?

"Cast out the bondwoman and her son,

For the son of the bondwoman shall not be an heir with the son of the free woman."

31 So then, brethren, we are not children of a bondwoman, but of the free woman.







# **REFLECT/CONNECT**

Use these questions for a time of individual reflection or to connect with others in meaningful conversation.

• What scripture, book, sermon, or song has been meaningful to you recently?

• What are some things given freely in our society and what are some things that can only be earned?

These questions are designed as a guide for individual study and to foster spiritual conversation with a group of people.

**GROW IN THE WORD** 

- **01.** Paul used the story of Hagar and Sarai as an allegory to showcase the difference between living under the Law and living in the freedom of God's promise. Hagar represented the old covenant of Law given at Mount Sinai, while Sarah represented a new covenant and the promise of freedom in Christ (v. 21-26).
  - What stands out most to you in Paul's comparison between the "slave woman" and the "free woman"? Take a look at the NLT or message translations to help understand Paul's analogy.

### **GROW IN THE WORD**

• What does it mean that the "son of the slave woman" was born according to the flesh while the "son of the free woman" was born through promise? Consider the background of the story seen in Genesis 16:1-4; 17:15-19; 21:1-3, 9-13.

• In what ways are you trying to achieve blessing on your own terms? What are the results or consequences?

- **02.** Paul claimed that the Galatians were like Isaac, and were children of promise under a new covenant. He urged the Galatians to reject slavery to keeping the Law, and instead to embrace their identity as free children of God through Christ (v. 27-31).
  - Based on verse 31, what did Paul expect the Galatians to understand about their identity through the allegory of Sarah and Hagar?

# **GROW IN THE WORD**

• How did the contrast that Paul makes between Sarah and Hagar's children apply to the Galatians' temptation to be perfected by the flesh? See Galatians 3:3.

• How can your relationship with God be characterized by what you already have in Christ, rather than by what you can gain from him?

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **MEN'S CONNECTION BREAKFAST**

November 16 | 8 am | Hebrew's Cafe | \$7

Men, bring a friend and join us for breakfast and coffee as we connect with others, learn about what's new in the ministry, and cultivate our relationship with God! Register online before November 13 to save your spot!

#### THE GATHERING

December 3 | 7 pm | Fellowship Hall

Ladies, mark your calendars and join us for an uplifting evening focused on the Advent season. We'll explore the theme of waiting for the Lord's return with active anticipation. Discover how you can be part of God's mission as we prepare our hearts and engage in His work during this special time of year. Register online or in the app.