

MOTHER'S DAY MESSAGE 5-14-23
SARAH A ROLE MODEL OF A GODLY WOMAN

TEXT:

I Peter 3:1 Likewise, ye wives, [be] in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;
I Peter 3:2 While they behold your chaste conversation [coupled] with fear.
I Peter 3:3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward [adorning] of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;
I Peter 3:4 But [let it be] the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, [even the ornament] of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.
I Peter 3:5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:
I Peter 3:6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

Intro: This is Mothers day. There are not a lot of women in the Bible that are presented as role models for mothers and wives. Sara is mentioned by name as a women that the Apostle Peter says, follow her example of godliness. This morning we are going to look at Sara as being an example for every woman to follow. She is a role model of a godly woman! Peter says, every wife and mom needs to be a daughter of Sara in the area of godliness and submission. Abraham is our father of faith, and Sara is a mother to every woman who seeks to be a godly wife and mother.

I. SHE WAS A ROLE MODEL FOR HER SUBMISSION TO HER HUSBAND

1. SHE WENT WITH HIM AT AGE 65 WHERE SHE DID NOT KNOW

She was 65, her husband was 75 when God called them to follow him to a city and country that was unknown...

We read this and never do understand the hardship that their surrender to God's call meant...

Many a man has tried to follow God's calling in their life only to lose their wife in the process.

I have a friend who went to school to be a doctor and then heard about how God was using doctors on the mission field to win people to Christ. He surrendered to serve the Lord in Bangladesh and when he went to Seminary to study for the ministry his wife walked out on him. She didn't want to go on the mission field. When she married her husband, she thought she was marrying a doctor and expected to live a well to do life in the States. She refused to follow her husband to a foreign country to live with impoverished people.

I have known other men to loose their wives when they go to Bible College. When I was a music major in Bible college my wife worked full time, and I worked part time, when I went to seminary, I worked full time and my wife worked part time. So many women do not adapt to the callings of their husband.

When God made Eve, he made her to be Adam's helper. She was to be a help meet. A godly wife should seek to fulfill that role. A godly wife will be a helper to her husband. In Genesis we read this..

Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, [It is] not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

`ezer, ay'-zer; form 5826; aid:-help.

----- Dictionary Trace -----

`azar, aw-zar'; a prim. root; to surround, i.e. protect or aid:-help, succour.

You know many a marriage has been destroyed because a man finds another woman who becomes his helper at work and he spends more time with that other woman than he does with his own wife. Then an emotional bond is created and then one thing leads to another and a relationship of infidelity sprouts up!

Work outside the home can either strengthen a marriage or can weaken it. When a man spends more time with another woman than his wife, this can be a temptation for another help meet relationship, which is by definition the reason God established marriage in the first place.

A wise woman will seek to fulfill her role as being the help meet for her husband that God designed!

Sarah was a role model of following her husband. His calling was her calling and she did not rebel against it..

She did not question it..

She supported her husband in his divine calling.

Many women would have rebelled.. Could you see the conversation now?

God told you to leave our people and city and go who knows where..

We are to go and we don't know where were going..

Abraham are you crazy!

No man leaves Father or Mother

Mark 10:29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

Mark 10:30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

Ladies, what if God called your husband to follow Him to some foreign field of service, MISSION FIELD, etc.?

Would you go? Without complaint?

She left, not only did she leave but she was 65 years old when she packed her bags...

Traveling was not as easy as it is today

No air conditioned vehicles..

Desert... walked... or rode in carts..

Lived in tents...

No running water...

No dish washer... no dryer

No Wal Mart no Wegmans... no Malls....

Genesis 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

Genesis 12:2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

Genesis 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 12:4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram [was] seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

Genesis 12:5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

2. SHE WAS A ROLE MODEL OF SUBMISSION EVEN WHEN HER HUSBAND WAS WRONG:

The Egypt Scenario Sarah was still a role model of godliness....

Genesis 12:10 And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine [was] grievous in the land.

Genesis 12:11 And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou [art] a fair woman to look upon:

Genesis 12:12 Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This [is] his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive.

Genesis 12:13 Say, I pray thee, thou [art] my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee.

Genesis 12:15 The princes also of Pharaoh saw her, and commended her before Pharaoh: and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.

Genesis 12:16 And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels.

Genesis 12:17 And the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife.

Genesis 12:18 And Pharaoh called Abram, and said, What [is] this [that] thou hast done unto me? why didst thou not tell me that she [was] thy wife?

Genesis 12:19 Why saidst thou, She [is] my sister? so I might have taken her to me to wife: now therefore behold thy wife, take [her], and go thy way.

Here we have Sarah following the commands of her husband even when he was wrong.... She followed I Peter 3:1-2 concerning the spirit of submission.

I Peter 3:1 Likewise, ye wives, [be] in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;

I Peter 3:2 While they behold your chaste conversation [coupled] with fear.

I Peter 3:3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward [adorning] of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

I Peter 3:4 But [let it be] the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, [even the ornament] of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

I Peter 3:5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:

I Peter 3:6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

IF ANY OBEY NOT THE WORD..... THE WIFE IS NOT TO BE PREACHING TO HER HUSBAND... WHEN A WIFE PREACHES TO HER HUSBAND THAT PREACHING ALWAYS TAKES ON THE LIKENESS OF NAGGING.....

3. SHE CONTINUED TO BEAR PATIENTLY WITH THE ERRORS OF HER HUSBAND

I Peter 3:1 Likewise, ye wives, [be] in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;

You think Abraham would have learned his lesson in Egypt.. NO .. He continued to do this with Abimelech in Gerar..

Genesis 20:1 And Abraham journeyed from thence toward the south country, and dwelled between Kadesh and Shur, and sojourned in Gerar.

Genesis 20:2 And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, She [is] my sister: and Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah.

Genesis 20:3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, Behold, thou [art but] a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken; for she [is] a man's wife.

Genesis 20:4 But Abimelech had not come near her: and he said, Lord, wilt thou slay also a righteous nation?

Genesis 20:12 And yet indeed [she is] my sister; she [is] the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife.

Genesis 20:13 And it came to pass, when God caused me to wander from my father's house, that I said unto her, This [is] thy kindness which thou shalt shew unto me; at every place whither we shall come, say of me, He [is] my brother.

Genesis 20:16 And unto Sarah he said, Behold, I have given thy brother a thousand [pieces] of silver: behold, he [is] to thee a covering of the eyes, unto all that [are] with thee, and with all [other]: thus she was reproved.

Genesis 20:17 So Abraham prayed unto God: and God healed Abimelech, and his wife, and his maidservants; and they bare [children].

Genesis 20:18 For the LORD had fast closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech, because of Sarah Abraham's wife.

The average woman of today would tell Abraham off....

Imagine the conflict... She would say.. look buddy I am not going to go through this again to save your neck. Also Sarah must have been some beautiful gal because she had to be approaching 70 at this time. According to Genesis 17:17 Sarah was 10 years younger than Abraham. So she would have been 65 years old when they left Ur of the Chaldees, and now she had to be maybe 69 even 70 years old.

She was a perfect example of I Peter 3:1-2 She did not rebuke or preach to her husband and throw his faults into his face.

II. SHE WAS A ROLE MODEL FOR HER GODLINESS AND OUTWARD BEAUTY

Genesis 12:11 And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou [art] a fair woman to look upon:

Genesis 12:12 Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This [is] his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive.

Genesis 12:13 Say, I pray thee, thou [art] my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee.

I Peter says,

I Peter 3:2 While they behold your chaste conversation [coupled] with fear.

I Peter 3:3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward [adorning] of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

I Peter 3:4 But [let it be] the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, [even the ornament] of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

I Peter 3:5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:

I Peter 3:6 Even as Sara

1. THE COMMAND CONCERNING A WOMAN'S ADORNMENT

The word for adornment, is the word Kosmos

kosmos, kos'-mos; prob. from the base of 2865; orderly arrangement, i.e. decoration; by impl. the world (in a wide or narrow sense, includ. its inhab., lit. or fig. [mor.]):-adorning, world.

The most attractive women through out history.. were those who dressed and adorned themselves modestly...

Notice, the command again I say command. This is not a suggestion I believe it is a command.

How does a woman adorn themselves? In each age there would be adornments that communicate godliness and adornments that communicate ungodliness.

Sarah I believe would have been an example of a woman who knew how to properly adorn herself, because she is mentioned in this passage.

2. THERE IS A GODLY ADORNMENT AND A WORLDLY ADORNMENT

I used to tell my children if it is in style with the world it is wrong. You may not know why it is wrong but believe me it is wrong.

I John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things [that are] in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

I John 2:16 For all that [is] in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

I John 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

There are styles in this world that do not communicate godliness..

There is music of this world that does not communicate godliness..

The first thing that God taught Adam and Eve after the fall was how to properly cloth themselves to show they were redeemed by the blood of the lamb.

So too nakedness is a picture of sin and pride and woman should properly dress in a modest way to cover their nakedness and show godliness and humility.

I Timothy 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;

What is the English dictionaries definition of Modest dress

Dressing or behaving so as to avoid impropriety or indecency, especially to avoid attracting sexual attention (typically used of a woman).

"the modest women wear long-sleeved dresses and all but cover their faces"

There seems to be a trend that a lot of women like to wear skin tight clothes, and looking to draw attention to their bodies. This is not modest.

IV. SHE WAS A ROLE MODEL FOR HOSPITALITY

Genesis 18:1 And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day;

Genesis 18:2 And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw [them], he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground,

Genesis 18:3 And said, My Lord, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant:

Genesis 18:4 Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree:

Genesis 18:5 And I will fetch a morsel of bread, and comfort ye your hearts; after that ye shall pass on: for therefore are ye come to your servant. And they said, So do, as thou hast said.

Genesis 18:6 And Abraham hastened into the tent unto Sarah, and said, Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead [it], and make cakes upon the hearth.

Genesis 18:7 And Abraham ran unto the herd, and fetched a calf tender and good, and gave [it] unto a young man; and he hasted to dress it.

Genesis 18:8 And he took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set [it] before them; and he stood by them under the tree, and they did eat.

These were quick commands of Abraham...

Sarah didn't ask a lot of questions she just did it...

She was submissive and willing to open up her home and life to others that her husband wanted to entertain...

A godly woman is a woman that likes to serve others in this manner...

Hillary once mocked woman who like to cook and be homemakers.

"I suppose I could have stayed home and baked cookies and had teas, but what I decided to do was to fulfill my profession," she said during Bill Clinton's first presidential campaign.

Many women today do not know how to be homemakers and how to cook.

The truth is to take care of a home and raise children is a full time job. The reason many children are a terror in our society today is because they do not have a mother and have never had a mother at home to take care of them and guide them.

Proverbs 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left [to himself] bringeth his mother to shame.

Someone once referred to the mother's job of training children as being a lion tamer. It takes work, it takes strength. It is a full time job that one day will be well worth it.

V. SHE WAS A ROLE MODEL FOR FAITH

Hebrews 11:11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

Hebrews 11:12 Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, [so many] as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.

Genesis 18:9 And they said unto him, Where [is] Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent.

Genesis 18:10 And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard [it] in the tent door, which [was] behind him.

Genesis 18:11 Now Abraham and Sarah [were] old [and] well stricken in age; [and] it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.

Genesis 18:12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?

Genesis 18:13 And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old?

Genesis 18:14 Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

Genesis 18:15 Then Sarah denied, saying, I laughed not; for she was afraid. And he said, Nay; but thou didst laugh.

Genesis 21:1 And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken.

Genesis 21:6 And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, [so that] all that hear will laugh with me.

Just because she laughed and was amazed at first doesn't mean she didn't have faith...

As we see our plight and inability she naturally doubted her ability to perform but this did not stop her...

In that she did have Isaac this was evidence that she had faith and believed God.....

This is a token and evidence of her faith

Hebrews 11:11 says she had faith!

VI. SHE WAS A ROLE MODEL FOR INSIGHT AND WISDOM

Genesis 21:9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking.

Genesis 21:10 Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, [even] with Isaac.

Genesis 21:11 And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son.

Genesis 21:12 And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called.

1. SHE WAS WISE TO WANT HER CHILD SEPARATED FROM UNGODLINESS

Cast out the Bondwomen...

Every woman is to be the keeper of the home...

And more important are the children of the home than the house work

Sarah was an example of watching over her son Isaac. She knew it was not good for her son to grow up with the ungodly influence of Ishmael.

Children tend to look up to other older children. If that older child is godly that is OK. When that other child is ungodly that is a bad thing.

Sarah was wise and wanted to protect her child and made hard decisions to do that. These were sacrifices on her part.

HAGAR HELPED WITH THE HOUSEHOLD CHORES. SHE WAS A HOUSEHOLD SERVANT, BUT HER SON WAS A BAD INFLUENCE AND DANGER TO HER SON ISAAC..

2. SHE WAS WISE TO FORESEE PROBLEMS IN THE FUTURE AND TRIED TO CIRCUMVENT THOSE PROBLEMS

Genesis 21:9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking.

Genesis 21:10 Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, [even] with Isaac.

Sarah knew that her son was chosen to be the promised child and when she saw Ishmael mocking him, this was a subtle form of persecution.

Paul later sees the prophetic significance of Sarah's decision. It was Sarah that saw this not Abraham. A mother's instinct to protect her children often is deeper and more sensitive than her husband's.

Ishmael and Hagar were spiritual pictures of the world and the flesh, while Isaac was a picture of those who would be born of the spirit and promise..

Galatians Chapter 4 Paul speaking about Isaac and Ishmael writes,

Galatians 4:29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him [that was born] after the Spirit, even so [it is] now.

Galatians 4:30 Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.

Galatians 4:31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.

Sarah in her spirit sense these spiritual truths.

Conclusion:

There are not many women mentioned in the Bible that woman should follow as role models. There are some commended for their faith but not many commended as a role model of being a good wife. Sarah is one of the exceptions. Godly women look up to her as a role model. I Peter 3:6 says woman who follow her example are called her daughters..

I Peter 3:5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:

I Peter 3:6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

She alone stands out in Scripture as a woman to be followed. Proverbs 31 gives an perfect role model of the virtuous woman, yet this woman is unnamed. Sarah we can know her by name. The Bible says follow her in the area of being a good submissive and godly wife.

A challenge every lady who is listening to this message... to be a daughter of Sarah, who is a Role model of faith, submission, modesty, and godliness.