

Sermon notes – Presbyterian Men Sunday – June 21, 2020

Readings:

Genesis 21:8-21

Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

Matthew 10:24-39

1. Much too often I hear an adult say, “Kids these days don’t have respect for anyone.” And then I think of all the kids I know who are very respectful, not only of their peers, but also the adults in their lives. Talk about respectful kids that you know.

The twist in this story is the lack of respect adults have for a child (and his mother).

2. Sure, there are many cultural and moral differences between the time of Abraham and Sarah and our time, but the truth remains: Abraham abandoned his child and his child’s mother. The one who is known for having so much faith – his faith counted as righteousness – didn’t have faith enough to wait. Along with Sarah, he conspired to have an heir by Hagar, a slave – hence Ishmael.

3. God redeemed the situation (foreshadowing God’s redeeming act through Jesus?) and so, got Abraham off the hook. Why does God redeem this situation, any situation?

4. Are there testimonies among the men in your church, who having abandoned/failed their children, saw God redeem the situation? (Even in the sense of Matthew 19:27-30)

5. Jesus speaks to his disciples of the division he brings to the world, even between fathers and children. How can we choose Jesus over our children?

6. Jesus then says, “...if you forget about yourself and look to me, you’ll find both yourself and me.” (Matt. 10:39 *The Message*) Jesus seems to say that you’ll never know your true identity if you don’t focus on him. When you lose your life for Jesus (i.e. find your identity in him), then you’ll find your life (and your purpose?). That’s when we can become the fathers/parents that God wants us to be.

7. Take up your cross – center your life on service and sacrificial living on behalf of others, especially your children. And, if you don’t have children, look to the children of your community.