“Daughters of Sarah”

May 10, 2015

Today we show honor to the women; our mothers, our sisters and our daughters; but especially you mothers. You are the ones God chose to be the progenitors of the world. You are the Matriarchs of your homes.

A little girl was once asked where here home was. She replied “Where mother is.”

Now, let me begin with this. How does the world view motherhood in America in the 21st Century? Here’s how. The world permits a mother to be to take the life of her unborn child. That shows you the world’s standard. That’s the standard in our United States today.

And the newest research and medical progress regarding the keeping of preemies alive today is now twenty-two weeks after conception. Some doctors and hospitals have been able to save the life of a twenty-two week old fetus born pre-maturely.

And, a clear majority of Americans reject abortion. So some in the medical community want to revise the viability date downwards to from twenty-four to twenty-two weeks. This is how the world views mothers and motherhood in America today.

Ladies, God intended that you be something special; that you be holy ones, the lights of the world. As you well know, you are needed by every person in your life. You are God’s choice to be *His* minister to your spouse, your children, your entire family, and your extended family.

Every year we, here in the USA, set apart one day to honor you for who you are.

So, here’s how I’d like to honor you today. Open your Bible with me to the Book of Hebrews at chapter eleven.

Here’s what we read in the eleventh verse of the eleventh chapter. 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.”*

So, ladies, what’s on my heart today is this. Sarah is your example. And I’ve titled today’s sermon “Daughters of Sarah.” Shall we pray?

Here’s where the idea of your being the daughters of Sarah comes from. I Peter chapter three. 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; (2) While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. (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;*

*(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. (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:*

 *(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.”*

You can be a daughter of Sarah. You need to be a daughter of Sarah.

Now, did you know that Sarah is the Mother of God’s people just like Abraham is the Father of God’s people? Isaiah 51:1 *“Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteous-ness, ye that seek the Lord: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged. (2)**Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you…”*

Here through Isaiah God is calling the Jews through Isaiah to “look to Abraham your father and [look] to Sarah who bore you…”

Sarah is this year’s Mother’s Day example. So, I want to be an encouragement to mothers and non-mothers to apply the Scripture to your heart first. Everyone can find a word here for your hearts.

First, like every woman, Sarah began childless. Genesis 11:30 *“But Sarai was barren, she had no child.”*

Only a barren woman can imagine this particular pain. Many women *are* barren; childless; wishing and hoping and praying that they might have a child.

Sarah was among those who were nearly stigmatized. She was unable to bear a child. And she lived with this difficulty for 70 per cent of her life; up until the age of ninety (she lived to be 127; see Genesis 32:1).

There are many, many barren women today who have no idea why they are barren. Some of infertile; while others around them are so fertile they have a child every two years or so. Some women are unable to carry a pregnancy to full term. I read one article that indicated that one out of every six couples in America today is barren. According to www.womenshealth.gov, up to ten percent of women ages 20 to 44, (that’s over six million) have difficulty getting pregnant.

Now, did you know that there are seven barren women found in Scripture and that six of those seven eventually bore children?

So, what does the Bible teach about the womb? Here is what the LORD says.

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

Genesis 25:21 *“And Isaac intreated the Lord for his wife, because she was barren: and the Lord was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.”*

Genesis 29:31 *“And when the Lord saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren.”*

And Genesis 30:22 *“And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb.”*

Just as God is Sovereign over all the affairs of mankind; He is sovereign over the womb.

Ladies, those who begin with God; end with God. If He’s LORD at all; then He’s LORD of all. Everyone here should decide to let God be God and praise Him for Who He is. A daughter of Sarah see God as the One Who fills the womb. He has greater wisdom and greater understanding than all of us put together.

First, like every woman, Sarah began childless.

Second, Sarah is the example of true patience through the years of her life. Sarah was called by God to endure the challenge of being barren. She watched hundreds of children enter into the world. But she had none. She saw them with their laughing, playing children. She saw the mothers around her nursing babies and bouncing them on their knees. But not Sarah.

Yet, what we find in this woman is the reason she’s given such great honor in Scripture. She’s a patient soul; for the most part.

Patience is a necessary quality. Clearly, none of us were born with patience. It’s a learned character trait. But what is it? “Patience is something you admire in the driver behind you, but not in the one ahead.” [Bill Meglashen – found on [www.bibletools.org](http://www.bibletools.org) “How Can We Develop True Patience?”]. The dictionary defines patience as "the capacity, habit, or fact of bearing pains and trials calmly, or without complaint."

It is the one character traits that sometimes gets more difficult the longer you have to wait on God. Yet, as you know, the difficulty is not with the thing we are hoping and praying for as much as it is with ourselves. Hurry may win some battles. But patience always wins the war.

Folks, the Bible teaches us that we should be greatly concerned for our own souls. Luke 21:19 *“In your patience possess ye your souls.”*

How will you ever possess your soul if you don’t let patience have her perfect work in you? And how will you ever develop patience if you don’t have difficult things in life to endure.

So, Sarah was called by God to endure the challenge of being barren. She is our example of patience. This is one of keys to being a daughter of Sarah.

First, like every woman, Sarah began childless.

Second, Sarah is the example of true patience.

Third, Sarah is the example of a praying woman. She was a woman who hoped and prayed and wished and pleaded with God for a child.

I know that each one here today knows someone who has done just that. When things weren’t as you wish they were, you prayed. But let me remind you of what we read in the Bible. *“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.”*

The main lesson given in the NT and the main lesson to learn from the Matriarch of Israel is this. God always honors faith. Do you think it was difficult for Sarah? Was it easy for her to wait on God? Wasn’t it a life of hardship that she did not choose or expect or want? Didn’t Sarah stick with Abraham when he moved from the Ur of the Chaldees all the way west to a land called Canaan? Hadn’t she been submissive? Hadn’t she said “yes” to both God and Abraham when it came time to move to a faraway world where she knew no one? Hadn’t she left her family when she married Abraham? Hadn’t she left all of them back in Chaldea?

Yet, once in the place to which God had called Abraham, why did the LORD make her wait until her ninetieth year before He fulfilled His promise of motherhood to her?

I think each of us; but especially mothers, ladies, young girls; we like the idea of a home and a family and having children and grandchildren and all the pleasures that come with family life. Yet, Sarah had just one thing. She had God and His promises.

Back when Abraham was seventy-five God had promised Abraham a son. Yet, Abraham thought it best, since his own wife was barren, to have a child through her handmaiden Hagar; an Egyptian. Do you think this caused Sarah to become a woman of deep and true prayer? I think it did.

All you can see in the life of Sarah is the life of a woman of faith. That’s why the NT says this. *“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.”*

Sarah was sixty-five years old when the LORD came to Abraham with the promise of a son. Yet, the LORD had Sarah wait until she was ninety before He sent her the answer to her prayers.

Don’t you wish your life could be the life *you* think is best? Don’t you wish your life could be the life *you* think will bring the LORD the greatest glory? “If only God would hurry up. If He’d just give me a sign.” Can’t you hear Sarah saying this to herself? Can’t you hear her crying to sleep each night with “LORD, this is too hard to bear; can’t it be this night that I finally become pregnant?”

Folks, God’s plans are much better than yours will ever be. Please don’t judge Him if He hasn’t answered your prayers just yet. Be a daughter of Sarah. Be a woman or a man of true faith.

And what does the Bible say about that? Hebrews 11:6 *“But without* ***faith*** *it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*

I think Sarah’s life was a life of continual seeking the LORD. And how do I know that? Because the testimony given in the Bible about her life was this. *“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.”*

Do you know what Sarah’s name means? It means “princess.” Why do you think the LORD changed Sarai’s name to “Princess”? It’s because the LORD had His mind already made up. She’d have her baby boy when she turned ninety.

Abraham’s name means “Father of a multitude.” Can you imagine Sarah having to speak her husband’s name each morning when she woke up? “Abraham, Father of a multitude; I love you. I’m waiting on God today. I’ve decided that each time I repeat your name, I’ll be praying that I’ll live by faith that one day the LORD will send me a son.” Maybe she didn’t pray this way.

You see, sometimes our desires do one great thing for us. They bring us closer and closer to the LORD. Sarah’s desire for a child was normal and natural and ordinary. Yet, God’s timing is, to us, sometimes abnormal, unnatural, and unordinary.

And what do we find in Sarah’s heart through those very difficult years, twenty-five of them? We find this *“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.”*

“Through faith.” What is it going to be with you as you progress through the challenges and trials of your life on this earth? Is it going to be “I am walking with God’s promises on my heart”? “I am walking with Him by faith. I believe that what He has said, He will do.”

The biggest lesson to learn as a daughter of faith is faith; faith when there’s no outward evidence that things are going to work out as they should; faith that God will intervene; faith that He does know my heart and He does care; faith in a faithful God. God always honors faith.

What a woman this must have been!

First, like every woman, Sarah began childless.

Second, Sarah is the example of true patience.

Third, Sarah is the example of a praying woman.

Fourth, let God handle your future.

Be trusting when things don’t work out in your timeframe. Your timeframe is just that *your* timeframe. What do you think it would have been like for Sarah if God had come to her in a dream and told her that someday His Son would enter this world through one of her descendants?

Wouldn’t that have made it a whole lot easier for Sarah? Wouldn’t she have had greater faith? Wouldn’t she have be able to handle life a whole lot better if she’d had such a dream sent to her from the LORD? Well, don’t you also think that pride would have entered into her heart has she known this?

Folks, if you and I really believed that God was complete charge of our lives, then, when the long-term storms arrive, you will choose one thing; restful dependence upon Him as His unseen hand moves and directs the people and circumstances around you. He really is in charge of the future.

In His book “Approved Unto God,” Oswald Chambers says this. “Is God going to help Himself to your life, or are you taken up with your conception of what you are going to do? God is responsible for our lives, and the one great keynote is reckless reliance upon Him.”

A daughter of Sarah is one who, just like Sarah, learns as she goes. And what one thing are you learning through the time God is preparing you for His answer? Utter depen-dence. Sarah, like all of God’s people, learned to wait upon the LORD. And who here thinks twenty-five years is a long time to wait for a child? Could you wait twenty-five years from age sixty-five to age ninety for God to fulfill His word to you?

No, you won’t have to. Rather, you will be given enough of God’s grace to wait on Him as He tries your soul. And the development of patience is the development of Christ-likeness in you; no matter what the circumstance.

A daughter of Sarah is one who is aware that God doesn’t work out things in your timeframe; but His.

The LORD said this to His people through the prophet Jeremiah in Jeremiah 29:11 *“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end [hope-filled future].”*

This message was given to the Jews when they were about to enter seventy years of captivity in Babylon. Now, think about the goodness of God to give them this word. He’s telling them that, yes, there will be seventy years of hardship as they’d never known. Yet, His thoughts towards them were thoughts of peace, not evil; even though the Assyrians were terrible captors. And what is the LORD’s promise here? That they were in those next seventy years to look forward to a good day, a hope-filled future.

What is it that you are believing today? Is it that you are filled with the confidence that the LORD does indeed have a good future lined up for you? Do you believe He’s working everything together for good for you? Do you really believe that He’s in charge of your future? If so, daughter of Sarah, know for certain that you will receive your Isaac someday.

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Fourth, let God handle your future.

Folks, the LORD has called you to be a “daughter of Sarah.” He knows your life and your circumstances. He knows your character and how to develop *His* character in you. He’s looking for a praying woman or a praying man. And He’s able to handle your future.

So, for Mother’s Day this year, let’s honor our Mothers with a reminder that God has called us to be daughters of Sarah. We should imitate Sarah’s character.

In closing, what is it that the LORD is speaking to you about? If He has spoken to you, do the one thing that is the best thing: submit your heart to Him. Let Him have His way.

Here’s the Prayer of Submission.

“LORD, I surrender everything that I am, and have, and ever will be. I take my hands off of my life and release every relationship to You--every habit, every goal, my health, my wealth, and everything that means anything. I surrender it all to You. And by faith I take my place at the Cross,

believing that when the Lord Jesus was crucified, according to Your Word, I was crucified with Him. And from this moment on I am trusting You to live Your life in me and through me that You might receive all the glory. I thank You now by faith for accepting me in the Lord Jesus.” Found on [www.gracenotebook.com](http://www.gracenotebook.com) in “The Selfer’s Prayer” by John Woodward].