

Ishmael: the Rebuke of Weak Faith

Scripture: Genesis 16:1-16

Also: Genesis 15:5-6; 1 Timothy 6:6-10

Questions

1. What has challenged you, changed you or confused you from this week's sermon or the Scriptures in it?
2. Have you ever seen some of the funny (or not so funny) "fail" videos online? Where people attempt something fun, cool, or even just a simple task that didn't go according to plan? Our plans, even if well intentioned, can sometimes miss the mark.
 - Have you ever had a "fail" episode in your life?
 - Can you describe it? (Or if you have a video, show it!)
3. The first main point from the sermon was, "The attempt to accomplish God's plans by worldly methods produces complications."
 - What examples have you seen or experienced like this?
4. Is it ever okay to violate Scriptural commands in order to pursue God or His will?
5. The second main point was, "God requires patient hope and fervent prayer for the realization of His promises."
6. As we think about applying these concepts to ourselves, how does peer pressure play into the picture?
7. Do not resolve problems with human solutions even if they are approved by society
8. Pray fervently while waiting patiently for God's realization of His promises

When we think about missing the mark/having plans fail, it's always good to be reminded of the Gospel. It's good in this story to be reminded that despite Abraham missing the mark, that did not change God's love and acceptance of each person involved in the story! Take a few moments to: *Remind yourself of God's grace to you in your failures. Remind yourself be a channel of grace to others in their failures.*