

1 CHOOSE YOUR MOTHER

Galatians 4:21–31

2 CHOOSE YOUR MOTHER

- May sound strange
- Physical birth--no choice in the matter
- Talking about our spiritual birth
- Grandpa Thornton's sermon
- Review

3 THE KEY QUESTION

- v. 21: "Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law?"
- Galatians – saved through faith in Christ alone.
- Now want to return to slavery
- Paul – "Do you really understand what the Law is saying?"
- A Hybrid religion
- Have you considered the implications?

4 AN OLD TESTAMENT STORY

- vv. 22–23: ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. ²³ But he *who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise.*
- The Story told:

5 The Story Continued

- Sarah's motives:
- Result:
- Fourteen years pass – 99 and 89
- Looking for Father Abraham
- Crucial point – Millions today – spiritual pedigree
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6 Summary of the Story

- One father
- Two mothers
- Two sons
- One son born the ordinary way
- One son born by God's miraculous intervention
- One son born by spiritual compromise
- One son born according to God's promise
- Ishmael born according to works – trying to solve the problem by human effort
- Isaac born because Abraham and Sarah believed God's promise

7 THE ALLEGORICAL INTERPRETATION

- vv. 24–26: ²⁴ which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar— ²⁵ for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children— ²⁶ but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.

8 Two women – and two sons

- Literal people
- Paul draws certain conclusions
- Sarah = Grace and Hagar = Law
- Isaac = the way of faith; Ishmael = salvation by works
- Bottom line
- No “third line”

9 **Sum up the allegory**

- One man had two sons by two mothers.
- Two mothers represent two covenants
- What Hagar and Ishmael stand for:
- From this allegory we can conclude . . .
- One man – two lines of humanity:
 - Line of works
 - Line of faith

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10 **Two lines of humanity**

- The line of works and self-effort: Abraham – Hagar – Ishmael – Mt. Sinai – The Law – Earthly Jerusalem – Bondage – Death
- Line of faith: Abraham – Sarah – Isaac – Mt. Zion – The Gospel – Grace – Faith in Christ – freedom, forgiveness, salvation – Heaven
- The Question: “Who’s Your Mother?”

11 **A SCRIPTURAL APPLICATION**

- 1 – We are children of promise, not of works.
- 2 – We should expect persecution from those who practice the religion of works.
- 3 – We must not compromise with those who do not accept the truth of God’s Word.
- 4 – We who are persecuted also inherit all the promises of God.