



Pastor Scott Archer 09.20.2015*
Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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Law and Spirit

Genesis 21:1-21

Series: Genesis – The Story of Us All

Central Passage

Genesis 21:8–14 (ESV) — **8** *And the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. 9 But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, laughing. 10 So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not be heir with my son Isaac." 11 And the thing was very displeasing to Abraham on account of his son. 12 But God said to Abraham, "Be not displeased because of the boy and because of your slave woman. Whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for through Isaac shall your offspring be named. 13 And I will make a nation of the son of the slave woman also, because he is your offspring." 14 So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.*

Central Thought: God's promises and purposes for us will come to fruition as we learn to surrender our will, and learn to follow the leading of the Spirit of Jesus.

The Tale of Two Sons

Galatians 4:21–22 (NLT) — **21** *Tell me, you who want to live under the law, do you know what the law actually says? 22 The Scriptures say that Abraham had two sons, one from his slave wife and one from his freeborn wife. 23 The son of the slave wife was born in a human attempt to bring about the fulfillment of God's promise. But the son of the freeborn wife was born as God's own fulfillment of his promise.*

- ❖ Asserting and relying on our fallen will leads to conflict, confusion and eventually, death.

- ❖ Surrendering to and trusting in the leading of the Spirit of Jesus leads to peace, purpose and life.

Homework

- ❖ Read Galatians 4:21-5:26, with an understanding of being "under the Law" as our willful attempts to please God in our own strength.

- ❖ Pray
 - Ask God to show you where you are stubbornly or fearfully asserting your will to accomplish his work or to achieve your own self-centered desires.

 - Repent of "willfulness," and ask God to help you learn to follow the Spirit of Jesus on a daily basis.