

Shiloh Christian Church Sunday School

Soul Sisters Series

Motherhood Takes a Miracle (Sarah, Rachel, Mary, Elizabeth)

Sarah – *“the woman who became the mother of nations”*

Sarah was selected to be the mother of nations when Abraham received the word from the Lord. The most difficult she had to do was to wait on the Lord – and her impatience led her to act – to help God out. When we have to wait on God, it is easy to get in the flesh – without consulting God. It is very easy to alter the course of another person’s life when we do things “our way” not God’s way. Her actions led to far-reaching consequences that still impact the world to this day. **Lessons:** Wives, be careful about what you influence your husbands to do. It is more important him to hear God than to hear you. Don’t get in the flesh as you wait on the promise from God. Don’t try to conjure up ways to help God out.

Summary: Sarah did receive the promised son that God had planned to give her. She could not deny it was a miracle from God. (It may seem that God is slow, but He is sure). On the way to her miracle she left scars behind: in her handmaid, her husband, and the history of mankind.

Rachel – *“the woman in whom romance and tragedy were blended”*

Rachel was the beloved wife of Jacob, but she allowed jealousy and competitiveness to consume her because she had no children. In her desperation she got in the flesh and tried to create the answer she sought. She gave her maiden, Bilhad, to her husband so she would have a child for her. Her motive for having a child was wrong – *“I have an intense struggle with my sister... I am winning.”* **Lessons:** Women, be careful of the spirit of jealousy, it will cause you to act in inappropriate ways as you compare your life with the life of other. It will ruin relationships. It will always seem as if someone else’s life is much more glamorous (live your own life – keep your eyes on God).

Summary: Rachel did get the answer to her prayer; God gave her a son. Even as she gave birth to one, she hoped for another. In the end, she did get another son, but died in childbirth.

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Mary – “the woman was honored above all women”

- Mary was an **ordinary woman**, but what made her special was her walk with God. “The Lord is with you.” [Walking with God makes sets us apart]
- Mary was a **pure woman**. She had grown up in a community renowned for moral corruption, yet she was a virgin. [Mary was keeping herself for Joseph]
- Mary was a **chosen woman**. God selected her to bear the life of His Son – God has also chosen us to bear spiritual life. [She had an assignment]
- Mary was an **available woman**. “I am a servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.”
- Mary was a **believing woman**. “Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” V. 45
- Mary was a **praising woman**. When we face challenging circumstances in our lives, we either worship or we whine. Mary worshiped. “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”
- Mary was a **humble woman**. She did not see herself worthy of God’s favor. “He has looked on the humble estate of his servant.” V. 48
- Mary was a **trusting woman**. She trusted God to make His plan known to Joseph. “You may be tired of waiting on God to speak to your husband, your pastor, or another spiritual authority. Don’t try to take matters into your own hands. Wait on the Lord – trust Him.
- Mary was a **praying woman**. Mary was in the upper room praying with disciples. We have to carry the burden of our children and families on our knees.
- Mary was a **wounded woman**. Her own son was crucified for her sins.

Elizabeth – “the woman who bore a son in her old age”

Elizabeth and her husband lived holy lives devoted to ministry. Although they were upright before God, their lives were barren – they had no child. God sent an angel to tell them there would be fruit in their lives and it was too much for Zacharias to believe. He could not speak until it happened. Elizabeth conceived and hid herself. When Mary came, she was the first to recognize the promised child. **Lessons:** God can make our barren lives fruitful in a moment. We need only be faithful to Him. We have to be careful of our attitude when God denies us what we want.

Summary: Elizabeth had her son when she was old, and everything that the angel promised about him came to pass. She may have had only a short life to raise John, but the mark she left on him, he left on the world.