



# Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

21 June 2020

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## Genesis 21:8-21 (NIV)

### Hagar and Ishmael Sent Away

<sup>8</sup> The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast.

<sup>9</sup> But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, <sup>10</sup> and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac."

<sup>11</sup> The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son.

<sup>12</sup> But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.

<sup>13</sup> I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring."

<sup>14</sup> Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba.

<sup>15</sup> When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes.

<sup>16</sup> Then she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there, she began to sob.

<sup>17</sup> God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there.

<sup>18</sup> Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation."

<sup>19</sup> Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

<sup>20</sup> God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer.

<sup>21</sup> While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.

### Other Lectionary Reading for this week:

Psalms 86:1-10, 16-17

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39



## Genesis 21

In these verses we see how simple human feelings can get in the way of harmony and loving relationships.

To mark Ishmael's weaning, Abraham, the proud father, held a great feast. It was a completely understandable action for Abraham. After all, he had waited for over 100 years to host such an event.

Sarah felt jealous at the attention received by Ishmael. Ishmael was older than Isaac, and perhaps Sarah was concerned that Isaac would be overlooked in favour of "her slave-girl's son".

So Sarah decided that Hagar and Ishmael should be sent out into the desert alone. It was a decision made in the interests of herself and her son, with neither care nor compassion.

Hagar was caught up in the emotions involved in being cast out of Abraham's camp, and left to fend for herself and her son. She felt lost and alone, and undoubtedly fearful for their future.

After wandering around, she decided to place Ishmael under a bush, so that he was protected from the sun. Hagar had no idea what to do next, as their water had run out.

Hagar then heard a voice telling her to go to Ishmael, and to pick him up. When she did so, she noticed a well. She realised that she and Ishmael were safe - that God was caring for them.

Each of us has moments like Sarah, when fear and anger take charge.

We also have times like Hagar when we overlook something important which is right in front of us. Fear and doubt can cause us to not see God's hand at work. God is always with us, creating hope and a way forward.

*"Be not afraid of growing slowly, be afraid only of standing still."  
- Chinese Proverb*

Time is a great healer, but a poor beautician. ~  
Lucille S. Harper

Every moment is a fresh beginning. ~ T.S Eliot

.... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We give thanks that Phyll Bylund is back home again after her stay in hospital.
- Please pray for Peter Scorgie as he undergoes final scans in preparation for heart surgery.
- We pray for all residents of aged care facilities who are still in lock-down.
- We are most thankful that the Covid19 pandemic has affected so few Australians, and we pray for those many people overseas who have been impacted.

### Meg's Musings

People have used this period of lock-down for all sorts of purposes.

Some people have tackled difficult cooking projects which they don't usually have time for.

Some have worked from home whilst also schooling their children, and had reached exhaustion by the time school recommenced.

Beulah has knitted 25 bears for our Operation Christmas Child boxes, and Mavis has made purses. Susie has been busy making bags to go in the boxes.

Some workers have accessed their superannuation, and used it to gamble.

A number of musicians have been busy composing and recording music. Other musicians have chosen to give concerts in their front yards for passers-by.

Meals on Wheels volunteers have continued to provide meals throughout our community.

Most people have chosen to do positive things with their time. For that we give thanks.

Blessings from Meg



### Matthew 10:28-31 (NIV)

<sup>28</sup> Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

<sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care.

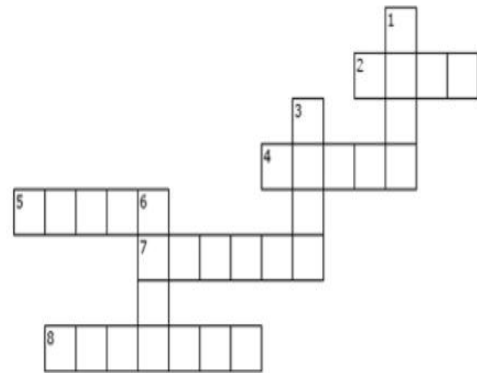
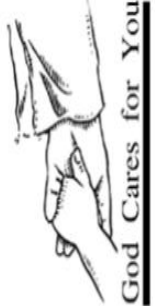
<sup>30</sup> And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

<sup>31</sup> So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

## You Are Precious in His Sight

So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows. Matthew 10:31 (NIV)

Based on Matthew Matthew 10:24-39 (NIV)



#### ACROSS

2. The spiritual part of a person
4. A small copper coin
5. The value of something
7. To be fearful or anxious about something
8. A common, small, gray-brown bird

#### DOWN

1. The physical part of a person
3. The part of the body that contains the eyes, nose, mouth, ears, and the brain
6. Threadlike structures growing on the head of a person

### From Sue

I'm broke but I'm happy, poor but kind.  
I'm short but I'm healthy, high but grounded.  
I'm sane but I'm overwhelmed, lost but hopeful.  
Everything is going to be quite alright because God is watching over me.

I'm not so young and I'm underpaid, tired but working.

I care but I'm restless. I'm here but I'm really gone.

I'm wrong and I'm sorry.

Everything will be fine because God is with me.

I'm free but I'm focused, green but wise.

I'm hard but I'm friendly, scared but I'm laughing.

I'm brave but I'm timid, sick but praying.

I haven't got it all figured out just yet but God will always guide me. ~ Some words from Alanis Morissette

**TIME:** Is it something far beyond our control?

In fact, while we cannot influence the flow of time, we still can get the most out of it.

Managing time is similar to mastering a sorcery, but the results are worth the effort. ~ unknown

#### PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION

Our goal: "To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."

Mission: "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."

Pastoral Care: **Meg Mangan 0466 337 005**

Elders: Margaret Crowell Ross Davidson Bruce Jarrett



.... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus