



# and that's... **The Gospel Truth!!** with Pat Corn

*a brief message of encouragement to make your day just a little bit brighter*

So much is happening around the world. Nestled on the other side of the planet is our precious North America. Home of... the United States of America. The world's super-power, bastion of democracy, land of opportunity, land of the free, and home of the brave. Swelled with pride, we meander through our daily lives, basically oblivious the problems of the rest of the world. We are after all.....Blessed!

We, as a country, want the rest of the world to have what we have. We want them to live as we do. There is one glitch to our well-meaning thinking. Do THEY want to live as we do? Their view of "normalcy" isn't the same as ours. Is our lifestyle even possible in some of these other countries? Do they want their children to have the same "privileges" as ours? I seriously doubt it.

We are blessed in this country because of the obedience to God's laws that our heritage has provided. We have been, in days past, "one nation under God". Sadly there are those who wish to tear that heritage down and they use and abuse the court systems to further their un-Godly agendas, all in the name of freedom and "rights". They want to steal what our forefathers established for us, and destroy the fabric of our tremendous heritage. Instead of concerning ourselves with what "offends" our populace, I might suggest that we be more concerned with what offend our Heavenly Father.

God tells us in his word that He "will not be mocked". Even though, as Christians, we are under the new covenant of grace, those outside of Christ are still under the law of the old covenant and will be dealt with accordingly by the wrath of God.

Much of what we have as a country is, in fact, desired by other, but can they handled those privileges outside of Christ? How in the world did all this mess get started on the other side of the world? Why can they not live in peace?

Ok, here's the deal. It all began with a stolen "birthright". The "birthright" or "blessing" of one's Father was a major concern of a young man in the days of Abraham. It meant everything to a young man, and that "blessing" had tremendous power in the life of the recipient.

Ok, here the scoop. Abram (not yet named Abraham) and Sarai (not yet name Sarah) were childless and in their 80's. Sarai offers her maid-servant Hagar to be a surrogate mother for Abram. After she becomes pregnant, Sarai become extremely jealous of Hagar and Hagar flees her wrath to the desert.

Now Hagar has an encounter with God and he tells her to go back and submit to Sari and then he makes this statement in Genesis 16:11

"The angel of the LORD also said to her: "You are now with child and you will have a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard of your misery. He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers."

Well, sure enough he was born to the household of Abram when he was eighty six years old...and lived happily ever after....NOPE!

When Abram was ninety-nine years old God told him that he would bless him with a child through Sarai. This is the encounter recorded in Genesis 17:1.

"When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God. God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

"Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?" And Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!"

Then God said, "Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation. But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year."

Issac was born and the trouble started.....His promise: a covenant with God.....Ishmael's promise....to be despised by all of his many brothers.....

Next week.....the rest of the story!

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