



Sermon Growth Guide

October 9, 2022

Freedom – Bound for Freedom

Galatians 4:21-31

Key Verse: Galatians 4:31

“Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.”

Big Idea: We are not enslaved to religious legalism, but, in Christ, are children of grace.

Foundations

We are rounding our final bend in the Galatians – Freedom series! Just two more chapters to go!

Paul is writing to Christians in the city of Galatia, and throughout this letter he’s developing an argument against the “Judaizers.” These so-called-Christians are telling the church that they need to adhere to the Jewish law in order to truly know and follow God.

Paul desperately wants the Galatian church to understand that they are not beholden to laws around food consumption, Sabbath, ritual festivals, circumcision, etc. In fact, those things are antithetical to the Gospel!

Paul summarizes his argument in these chapters with an illustration of sorts. He refers back to Genesis and likens the instructions of the Judaizers to Hagar, who became pregnant out of human effort, or “flesh.” Paul says that the true Gospel, which the Galatians initially understood, is like Sarah, the infertile wife of Abraham who was miraculously given a child through God’s promise and intervention.

We, followers of Jesus, are children of the promise. In Paul’s illustration, we belong to the free woman. May we not become bogged down by legalistic religion and external things which distract from the grace and love of God the Father in Jesus Christ!

Understanding God’s Word

Together, read Galatians 4:21-31.

What is confusing or concerning about this passage?

What sorts of things are associated with Hagar, the slave woman?

What sorts of things are associated with Sarah, the free woman?

Applying God’s Word

We are not enslaved to religious legalism, but, in Christ, are children of grace.

When are you tempted to drift towards a legalistic approach to following Jesus?

How might “living as children of the promise” differ from living according to the law or the flesh in your life?

Witnessing God’s Word

Who in your life has been turned off from considering Jesus because of the perception that faith is about legalism, rules, rituals, etc.?

How might you begin a conversation about the true nature of knowing, following, and belonging to Jesus?