



Women's Ministry
Georgia Avenue church of Christ
April 22, 2007

**Sarah's
Vices and Virtues**

Presented by Sis. Jania Otey

Mistakes:

1. She **allowed her beauty** to interfere with her service to God. Gen. 12:11-14 & 20:1-17. She could have used her beauty as a blessing.
2. She **allowed her trust** in God to waiver. Gen. 16:2 (ordered Abraham to have a child through her handmaid Hagar despite's God promise to Abraham in Gen. 12).
3. She **laughed and lied** about God's promise that she would have a son. 18:9-15.

Application Today

Sarah could have used her beauty as a blessing. We also can misuse the physical beauty that God gave us by not dressing modestly (1 Tim. 2:9). For the unmarried, using our bodies to satisfy our lusts is also a misuse of our physical beauty (Galatians 5:19). We must trust in God always because when we don't, we will suffer the consequences and make poor decisions (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Positive Virtues:

1. She **was faithful** "because she judged Him faithful who had promised" (Hebrews 11:11).
 - Mentioned in the Hebrew Hall of Faith along with Noah, Abraham, Joseph & Moses.
 - Since faith without works is dead (James 2:18), what did Sarah do to show her faith?
 - i. She bore a child when she was past the age (Gen. 21).
 - ii. This (was the beginning of the Hebrew nation and Jesus was in her lineage- thru her son Isaac).
 - iii. If you believe in the promises of God – you will judge Him faithful (Matth. 6:31-33).
2. She **was hospitable** – she prepared a meal and entertained strangers without hesitation (Gen. 18).

- Hebrews 13:2 instructs us to entertain strangers.
3. She **was obedient** - Peter calls women whose inner beauty is in the heart, and having a gentle & kind spirit, precious in the sight of God. He uses Sarah as this precious example (1 Peter 3:3-5).
- v6 -Peter refers to Sarah as a “holy” woman who trusted in God.

Application Today

Despite Sarah’s vices or mistakes God still counted her as faithful, holy, and precious in His sight. It’s important to look at the progression here:

Spiritually Sarah was lacking and growth needed to take place:

Chapter 12 She allowed her beauty to interfere with her service to God. Gen. 12:11-14.

Chapter 16 She allowed her trust in God to waiver. Gen. 16:2 (ordered Abraham to have a child through her handmaid Hagar despite’s God promise to Abraham in Gen. 12.

Chapter 18 She prepared a meal and entertained strangers without hesitation, then she laughed and lied about God’s promise that she would have a son. 18:9-15

Chapter 20 She again allowed her beauty to interfere with her service to God. Gen. 20:1-17.

Chapter 21 She bore a son and was commended for her faithfulness because she judged Him faithful who had promised.

Closing prayer please include: The Williams family, the college students as they go into exams and leave for the summer, the congregation as a whole, and our collective efforts to save lost souls.

Bibliography

Cindy Colley, *Women of Genesis* (World Publishing, 1997), 32-38.