

One of the things a man that wants to do something for God has to overcome is mockery. **Q: What does a man desire in life, marriage, ministry? RESPECT** (in the top 4 things a man needs)... Mockery is a disrespect... In the scripture we are going to look at, Abraham has to deal with & navigate through Mockery. It's important we process this right if we are going to be impactful in discipleship & ministry.

Genesis 21:9 (NKJV) And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, scoffing.

NLT: But Sarah saw Ishmael—the son of Abraham and her Egyptian servant Hagar—making fun of her son, Isaac.

I. FACING MOCKERY

A- Our story is about a miracle promise coming to pass, and in the middle of breakthrough mockery-

1. Isaac, the son of promise is born through Sarah and growing... God's plan fulfilled
2. But in the middle of that- Ishmael & Hagar mock the plan of God.
3. See; The world, people, & hell will mock the plan of God for your life. You will face this!
 - a. I remember when I left the ER to become concert director: one person asked- *What will that pay?!*
 - b. I've faced the looks of people when you tell them your occupation; like your so naive to the world...
 - c. I've been mocked for stands and judgements that have had to be made...

B- But think about this story: Abraham made some decisions that contributed to this mockery-

1. He decided to take Hagar, and have a son through her... now all these years later circumstances he created mock Gods plans.
 - a. Sometimes the avenue of mockery comes from our past... decisions we have made.
 - b. I remember when I got serious about my calling, b/c of my past, people mocked me *some disciple he is-*
 - i. Even a letter was sent, that a letter went to PG detailing all of my flaws and failures.
2. Then, Sometimes the mockery comes from things we are currently doing.
 - a. Character flaws not dealt with/ Careless with your words in pride/ faulty conduct (bad worker)... that makes us a joke
 - i. Lot: when he warned his family of judgment, they thought he was joking... he created that response.
3. However it works; the point is men that want to do a work for God will face Mockery

II. WHY MOCKERY

A- Because Mockery is a disrespect to men. That can really cause a man to cave in about the things of God.

1. It gets in their head... it raises questions... Men are a house of cards in ego & pride...
 - a. Hell understands this... This is why Saul stands out in the OT... He was so driven by emotion rooted in Pride.
 - i. He felt mocked by David, how could the people love him more than their king!?

B- So; The results of Mockery can be detrimental if we are not careful...

1. Mockery can really intimidate a man: It can make you feel powerless, it can make you view Gods will as low priority
 - a. Ishmael is a teen, Isaac a baby... *That's the promise, that's the victory, that's a joke!*
 - b. You can really begin to feel inferior... Pharaoh mocked Moses & Aaron, the magicians replicated the works
2. Mockery can become a distraction: Here now Abraham has to wrestle through home strife.
 - a. Mockery can weigh on our minds, it replays in our thoughts, it can consume us... That impacts our heart for ministry.
3. Mockery seeks to kill future usefulness: Here Isaac is a vulnerable baby just weened; you can't see the potential
 - a. Ishmael is matured, he is skillful in hunting, he has strength... and he mocks the future vision.
 - b. That's what the enemy wants- to mock the possibility of what you can become.
 - i. Its a demonic pattern we see in the Bible of hell attacking the vulnerable: Pharaoh/Herod/Goliath/Jesus on the cross

III PROCESSING MOCKERY

A- Some men don't survive mockery!

1. Either they drop out of calling & ministry... OR... they hurt themselves in pride, because they respond wrong
2. So, If the mockery is from things of the past- ITS UNDER THE BLOOD! In Christ we aren't what we were, and we aren't yet what we will be!
3. If its things you are doing currently: STOP & change them... character, conduct, words... etc. Ask God to help
4. Know your identity in Christ! You need a revelation that you are pursuing the HIGHEST calling in all of life.
 - a. Paul writes of his bragging rights pre-salvation, and he says it was all worthless compared to Jesus & calling!
5. Lastly, you need to get the authority of the Holy Ghost!
 - a. **Luke 10:19** Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.
 - i. Hell wants to use mockery to rule over you, make you feel powerless.
 - ii. PM: Christianity is a religion of POWER!