

XXXV. Genesis in Biblical Perspective

The Gospel of Christ from Genesis

“Who Gets the Last Laugh?”

Genesis 21:1–7

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Genesis 21:1–7 says [1] *The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised. [2] And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. [3] Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. [4] And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. [5] Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. [6] And Sarah said, “God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me.” [7] And she said, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”*

The grass withers, the flower fades, the Word of God abides forever and by His grace and mercy may this His Word be preached for you.

Expository preaching is a blessing for me. I love to do it. I’m praying that God will raise up the next generation of preachers to do that. Let me make that clear what I mean by expository. A man came up to me one time as he visited the church and said, “Boy, I’m excited about this church and coming to visit.” I said, “You ought to listen to us on the radio,” and he said, “Are you Harry Reeder?” And I said, “Yes,” and he said, “And you’re the guy that’s committed to that suppository preaching?” And I said, “No, no. That’s not quite right. It’s expository preaching.” It’s expository preaching in which you are just working your way through the text. The challenge is when you get to a text, how much of it do you preach? Once you figure that out the next thing is, what is the big purpose in this text, the big idea, the singular thing?

This is one of these texts that was not hard for a lot of reasons, but one of the reasons was that in the text itself God is letting you know why. Now in other passages of Scripture, the birth of Isaac has tremendous implications in terms of your Savior being born, Jesus Christ. This is the line of redemption, and we’ll get to that, but this text itself, in the life of Abraham and Sarah, there is something very significant being said here to us, and that’s what I want to take a look at. In fact, let me put it this way. Two days before I went on my study sabbatical I was right here in this congregation, and we had a memorial service for one of our dear saints that had gone to be with the Lord and his family. We were at the gravesite and there we stood, and there I repeated something, “He’s not here. Absent from the body is being present with the Lord.” Now why do you, Christians believe that? It is because God’s Word says so. God promised that.

Think of Job here. When all this stuff starts happening to Job, he has these buddies that come along and say, “Now, Job, do you know why all this stuff is happening to you? It’s because you’ve been a sinner and because you’re just not right with God,” and Job says, “Oh, my goodness. If that’s the case...” He says this five times in the book of Job, “How can a man be right with God? How can man, when all is wrong with us, ever be right with God?” Yet God says in Romans 8:1, “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Do you believe that? That is a tremendous.

I get the opportunity to go on these evangelism explosion visits, and I get the chance to talk with them about Jesus, and I say, "Is there any reason why you shouldn't commit your life to Jesus Christ right now?" And they say, "No," and I say, "Well, why don't we pray?" And they'll pray. And then I'm able to take them to John 6:47 after I say to them, "If this prayer commitment to Jesus Christ was from your heart, and God has done this work in you, here's what the Bible says to you, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life (John 6:47 ESV)."* Or I might be sitting at breakfast at Cracker Barrel talking with someone who has visited the church and wants to know more about being a Christian. I share with them about Christ and when they become a Christian, I tell them, "If you have confessed Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, one of the reasons the Bible was written was to let you know that you're right with God. He says, 'These things have I written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you might know that you have eternal life.'"

Somebody may come to me and saying, "Pastor, I'm just having some tremendous problems financially." I said, "Well, how's the tithe?" "Oh, I don't tithe. I'm not in a position to tithe." I said, "Well, The Bible says if we start with the tithe, it's not something I'm working to but something I start with. That's the key to financial freedom. In fact, God says that the 90 percent is something He's going to use more significantly in your life and with the ten percent that belongs to Him, you honor Him in worship. That 90 percent is greater than the hundred percent." "Wow, it is? You sure about that?" "Yeah." "In fact, Pastor, my life is so busy I don't have time with God. I don't have time for my family. Pastor, I just don't know what to do. I just need more time." "No. I tell you what, why don't we go ahead and cut one day out of the week. Let's take the day of the Lord and give it to Him for worship and rest and renewal." He also says, "To those who delight in me and call my day holy, I will make you ride upon the wings of the eagle," and your six days are going to be more than the seven.

God's Word keeps telling us things that are absolutely startling, that are absolutely countercultural. They're not irrational, but they're certainly super irrational, and when I look at them in the natural mind, I say, "How can that be true?" But God says it is true. God tells to a husband, "If you want to lead your wife then serve her. Wash her with the water of the Word. Be her spiritual leader by serving her. Care for her." Leaders aren't control agents. Leaders are liberators by having a servant's heart. Wives, do you know the greatest instrument you have to combat the disobedience in your husband's life is a gentle and quiet spirit? Wives, if any of your husbands are disobedient to the Word, they can be won to the word without a word as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior, and yet I live in a world that says, "Squeaky wheel gets the oil." That's really the way to get it done. God's Word keeps telling me these things, and the culture that I'm in tells me the opposite so I feel like I'm swimming upstream, and then God's Word tells me things that seem to me to be impossible or improbable.

This text was written to tell us something. When God has made promises, no matter how seemingly improbable or impossible they are, when God makes a promise, God will do it for His glory and the laughter of your joy. God will do what He has promised, and He will do it for His glory, and He will do it for the laughter of joy in the lives of His people. That's what Abraham and Sarah have found out in an amazing way in this text. Let's look at this text and remember that little truth that's there. No matter how impossible it might seem, no matter how improbable, Abraham and Sarah, "I'm

going to give you all a child. Abraham, you're 100. Sarah you're 90. That seems impossible and improbable, but I'm going to give you a child. In fact, one year from now I'll be back, and when I get back the result will be you will have a child" and that becomes God's promise. No matter how improbable or how impossible, if God has made the promise, God will secure that promise for His glory and the laughter of our joy.

The text is an interesting text. It's kind of like we're finally here at Genesis 21, but we started all the way back in 12 Genesis. Remember when Abraham was called out of the land of the Chaldeans, and God said, "Come on out. Follow Me. I'm going to give you a land and I'm going to give you a seed." Now remember, he's 75 years old. That's what God said all the way back in Genesis 12, and now finally we get to Genesis 21. He's in the land and he gets the child. So from Genesis 12 to Genesis 21 it spans a 25 year period. This was 25 years with a trip down to Egypt, and dealing with Pharaoh. Down to Gerar and dealing with another king, Abimelech. It has included liberating five kings from four powerful kings with a personal army that has been put together. This includes the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the cities of the plain and the changing of that entire landscape. It includes Lot and his family being rescued, but then his family perishing because of unbelief. So all kinds of things have happened, but finally we're here. Abraham is in the land and now, finally, he gets the son, Isaac.

In this text very clearly, God's got something He's telling us here. Genesis 21:1 says [1] ***The LORD visited Sarah** as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised.* Now that is a visitor. Just think what it means if God visits you. God visited Sarah. Why? It was because He had promised. Genesis 21:2 says [2] *And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him.* Then later on, they name him as God commanded them. Five times in the text it's telling you what you're reading is because God had promised it. God had spoken it. God had said this was going to happen, and when God said it, God brings it to pass.

Why did God visit Sarah? It was because God said the year before, "I'll be back in a year." Why did He bring this child through a hundred-year-old man and a 90-year-old woman? It was because He had promised it to them. Why did they have that child at this time? It was because God had spoken it beforehand. Why was this child named Isaac? It was because God had spoken it. Why has this child been brought to the Lord in the circumcision of the covenant? It was because God had commanded it. Everything that's here is because God had promised it, and that's why it is happening.

I'm going to teach you some Hebrew here. Two times in the text it says *Sachaq* and that means laughter. Sarah says, "I have embraced laughter. Everyone will have laughter over me." Three times in the text it's not *sachaq*, it's *Yitzchaq*, and that translates Isaac. His name is Laughter, *Yitzchaq*. So five times in the text we've got laughter. Five times in the text it's saying God did as He promised. Five times in the text the result is everybody talking about laughter. In fact, the child's name is Laughter. By the way, there's another interesting thing about these seven verses. The silence of Sarah is broken. Very seldom has Sarah spoken in any of the texts we've studied to this point.

Now in this text Abraham doesn't speak. Sarah does all the speaking, but before you look at what Sarah said, look at what Abraham did. This time Abraham doesn't speak, but his not speaking is deafening. He is shouting to us something. Notice Abraham, while he never speaks in the text, does what in the text? He obeys the Lord. There are three things I want you to see in the text about his obedience.

Number one, he obeyed the Lord by naming the child what God said. God said to name the child, Isaac, *Yitzchaq*. So Abraham doesn't go and say, "You know, God said to do this name, but I never really liked that name. I think there's another name." No, as soon as the child is born, he says, "His name shall be as the Lord commanded, *Yitzchaq*, Isaac. Isaac is his name." So he obeyed the Lord in naming the child.

Secondly, he obeyed the Lord. What did the Lord tell him? He said, "I will be a God to you and to all of your generations. I'll be a God to you until your seed after you. Now if you believe My covenant promise, you take My appointed sign, which is circumcision, and not only you be circumcised, Abraham, as a believer, but you circumcise your covenant children." So what does Abraham do? In obedience to the Lord, on the eighth day he obeys the Lord and circumcises his child because that's the sign of the covenant. Now the sign has changed, but the promise hasn't. We still have that same promise. The same promise given to Abraham we have today because it's repeated in the New Testament. For instance, in Acts 2 when Peter preaches the Gospel and all of these thousands of people come to Christ, what does he say? "The promise is for you and your children." Paul would say, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved, you and your household." So the promise continues, but the sign has changed.

Abraham takes the old covenant sign. The old covenant sign of circumcision is fulfilled in Christ, and Christ has now given us a new covenant sign which is baptism. Just like the Passover is fulfilled in Christ, we have a new covenant sign for the Passover meal and that is the Lord's Supper, but here circumcision is fulfilled in Christ. Now we have the same promise, just different signs. So he takes the old covenant sign and he obeys the Lord. You may be thinking, "Harry, I see his obedience in that he named the child as God commanded him. He circumcised the child in obedience to God, as God commanded. Where's the third thing of his obedience?"

The third thing is not there, but it had to be there for him to do it and it has to do with obeying God's Word. He knew the commandments of God and remembered them. You can't obey what you don't know. He knew the commandments of God. In other words, God's Word was not a coffee table decoration. God's Word for him was something to be known. Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin in order to obey. I desire to obey. So he gives the name. He circumcises, and he knew the Word of God, but let's don't leave Sarah out here.

There is one other little thing in the text before we walk away from it. In the text, Sarah says two things. Now I'm able to listen to Abraham not with my ears because he doesn't say anything. I listen to Abraham with my eyes because I can see his obedience but I can hear Sarah, and Sarah says two interesting things. She says in Genesis 21:6, [6] *And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me."* Now please notice, it is not Abraham or her faith. She didn't glorify her faith. She didn't glorify her husband and she didn't glorify the son, Isaac. This is what she said, "God has made laughter for me." She doesn't want this to stop with her. She goes on to say in Genesis 21:6, "*everyone who hears will laugh over me.*" I want everyone to join this laughter that God has brought to me. Remember, this is the second laughter.

Her first laughter was back in 18 Genesis. Jesus with two angels makes a pre-incarnation appearance, and He makes a statement to Abraham. He says, "Abraham, in a year I'll be back here. You're 99 now but in a year when you're 100, I'll be back here

and 90-year-old Sarah will have a child. I'll visit you again then and you will have a child." Who is laughing back at the tent when this was told to Abraham? It was Sarah. While she wasn't present at the conversation, she was back in the tent, and when she heard this, she fell down in the laughter of unbelief. Now, in Genesis 21 she has the laughter of deliverance, redemption, and blessing, the laughter of joy. This is her second laughter. She says, "I don't want this thing to stop here. I'd like a third laughter. I want everyone to have this laughter, the laughter of joy, and I want everyone to laugh over me for what God has done to me."

There are three takeaways I'd like to leave you with. You're probably already thinking just from observation that we can take encouragement from this text because we are all like Abraham and Sarah. We're sinners saved by grace, and so God fulfilled His Word for Abraham and Sarah and, therefore, God's promise is I can count on them that God's promises are true for me. I can depend upon God to fulfill them and, therefore, no matter how impossible, no matter how improbable, I can believe that and I can trust in that. However, God didn't come to my tent so what are my promises?

I would like to paraphrase St. Augustine who said something like this, "When the Bible declares, God has spoken." When the Bible declares, God has spoken, and He will do what He has promised. Where do you stop trying to show honor to the Lord? That's why we embrace what happened in the days of Nehemiah. When Nehemiah mounted the pulpit, the people stood, not because of Nehemiah. They stood because the Word of God had been opened. God has spoken. When the Bible declares, God has spoken, so all of God's promises in His Word are 'yes' and 'amen' in Jesus Christ. So the only question is not will those promises be delivered for they have been, but are you in Jesus and is Jesus in you?

I'm going to have to drop a couple of shoes here. You know, when you drop a shoe, you have to drop the other shoe. I hear people say, "Every promise in the book is mine." Now that's not true. There are some very special promises to special people for special situations. For instance, ladies, if you make it to 90 years old, this text is not promising a baby to you. That's why preaching, teaching and Bible study is so important. There are very special promises for very special occasions, and every promise God has made to you is yours in Jesus Christ, and is 'yes' and 'amen'.

Now, what are the promises God has made to you? I can't give them all to you now, but I can tell you some of them. He will never fail His Word in your life. He will never leave you, nor forsake you. He will always abide with you, even when He seems a distance away, He is still there. He will minister to you sometime with a shout and sometimes with the still small voice. Sometimes His Word and His presence become very obvious to you, but He has never left you. He is there. You have a new heart. You're right with God. You're forgiven of all of your sins. If you believe in Him, ultimately you will never die, but you will live forever. God has promised, "I'm not going to visit you. I will abide with you." We have a new family. We have a new home and it's heaven. We have a new life. *If any man be in Christ Jesus, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold the new has come* (II Corinthians 5:17). Everything God has promised in His Word is true in Christ.

God's Word not only has promises, God's Word has commandments, and the evidence of faith is behavior. I understand that is not a popular subject right now with people. I understand we have re-manufactured the whole doctrine of grace as if when

I'm saved, if any preacher ever tells you that after you're saved by grace God expects something from you, he's not really preaching grace. When God saved you, He saved you to change you. He saved you to call you. He saved you by His love in love, and He says, "If you love Me, you will keep my commandments (John 14:15)."

Let me drop some more shoes. Does your obedience save you? No. Is your obedience ever going to be perfect? Well, let's look at Abraham here. I gave you three cases of his obedience right here. You don't have to go far to find out his imperfections, do you? He lied about his wife twice. You don't have to go far to see that a believer's obedience is never perfect. Our obedience will falter. Our obedience will rise and fall, but the notion that I can be saved by grace through faith, and my behavior betrays something else, the fact is what people believe they evidence. I'm not asking you what people sign on something they believe. What a person truly believes will come out in their life eventually.

There's no such thing as an unbeliever in this world. Everybody believes something, even Satan. What did Satan believe? He believed he could be like God. What was his behavior? He was the usurper of God. This is why the book of James is there. He's telling you not that faith plus works saves you, but he's telling you that saving faith works. Abraham is a prime example. Abraham is saved by grace. God has come down to them. We didn't go up to God with our religion. God has come down by grace to save you. God has delivered them. God's promises are sure because of God's power and commitment, but the fact is when one becomes a believer, there is an evidence in one's life. It is not that, that evidence saves you or keeps you safe, but there's evidence that's there. If I'm a Christian and it becomes against the law in this country, there will be some evidence to convict me if I'm really a Christian. They shouldn't have to look long and hard for it. You worship. You read the Bible. You share Christ with people. That makes you a Christian. Okay. It's against the law. There will be evidence that's there.

Let me try to show you this. Let's look at Hebrews 11. We find Abraham and Sarah in this hall of faith. Notice what it says first about Abraham, and then let's look and see what it says about Sarah. Hebrews 11:8–11 says *[8] By faith Abraham obeyed (He is saved by faith, not by his obedience, but faith will manifest itself with obedience.) when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. [9] By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. [10] For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. [11] By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.*

God's promises are true because God is faithful. Because God is faithful, His promises are true, but this Word that gives me His promises also gives me His precepts. It gives me His commandments, and I don't do them to be saved. I'm not under the law. I'm under grace. I do them because I love Him, who first loved me, and because He loved me by grace, if I love Him I will want to keep His commandments, and Abraham becomes a wonderful example because he falters. He's imperfect, but he's growing in grace. This pagan idolater is moving forward, and God is moving him forward in obedience, correction, discipline, and growing three steps forward, two steps backwards,

and here he gets to this moment in silence. He's faithful to the Lord. He names his son in obedience. He circumcises his son in obedience. He knows God's Word in obedience.

In fact, his obedience will go so far that he'll kill laughter because God commanded it. He'll put his son, Isaac, on an altar. The very laughter they're enjoying he will not let be an idol. If the Lord who gave the child called the child, then he would kill the child, and, of course, that marvelous moment, our God Jehovah Jireh reaches in, takes laughter off the altar and puts a ram, who will be the man of Sorrows for us, the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. God's promises and His precepts are there in His Word. He is faithful to His promises. Now by faith follow in obedience the Lord, who will never leave you nor forsake you.

The second takeaway is the laughter. What about your laughter? Now I am not trying to start a laughter revival here. I would like a revival and I would like some laughter, but I'm not trying to promote a laughter revival, but how about laughter? This thing seems to be there. In fact, Sarah says, "We're not going to hide this. We want everyone to know we're laughing." It is this laughter of joy over what God does. God doesn't just visit you, God lives with you. You're in Christ. Christ is in you. The Holy Spirit is within you. You're forgiven of how many of your sins? You are forgiven of all of your sins.

Let's look at Sarah's laughter. Sarah started laughter for two reasons. Number one, she's laughing because she has found out God's Word is true. God promised it. He promised to be back here in a year. Here He is. He promised a child in a year. Here's the child. God's promises are true, and she can't help but laugh. If you can't do amen, try laughter. Just try one of those. Try both of them, but laughter is there with her. She begins to laugh. This one who had laughed in unbelief now laughs in joy. She has found that God's Word is true.

Number two, God has the power to pull it off when He promises something. It may look impossible with me. Sarah may be thinking "Me, nurse children at 90 years of age?" Abraham had a child at 100 years of age. She was thinking that is just absolutely impossible and improbable. You know what she found out? God did it. He came and did to Sarah what He had promised. That's why she says very carefully, "Not Abraham, not my faith, not me but God has made me laughter and I can't help but laugh about this. I've got joy."

Again, I'm going to drop more shoes here. I believe in reverence. I believe in brokenness. I do not think that this passage is telling us that you go to the grave of a loved one and you sit there and laugh. I'm not talking about polecat grinning. I'm not talking about superficial triviality of laughter. I'm just saying in the believer there is laughter in the soul. Can you believe it? I'm saved. I have all eternity. That person in the grave, I'm grieving because I'm separated, but there's this laughter because I know this isn't it. They're in Christ. I'm in Christ. We have eternity. This is great. I'm forgiven of all of my sins. I have the Holy Spirit living within me, and there's this laughter of the soul, this laughter of joy that begins to bubble up and move forward. It is that laughter. That's what Sarah has. I know we're Presbyterian, but couldn't we laugh over the fact this is the Word of God, and it's true. We have heaven. I'm forgiven. I have the Holy Spirit. I have a new family, a new heart, a new home, a new life and the newness of life. I have all of that by grace through faith in Christ, and not only that, God

gives me the opportunity now to obey, honor and please Him so that others can see Him in me. I even get that opportunity.

On Wednesday I was reading this and I was thinking about how to bring home, and a song came to my mind and I thought about singing it for you but I won't. It's in our Christian Missionary Alliance Hymnal. I don't know the last time I've heard it sung. The title of the hymn is *He is Able to Deliver Me* and it goes like this; *He is able to deliver me. He is able to deliver me. Though by sin oppressed. Come to God for rest. He is able to deliver me.* There are so many men and women are much better at finances than me. I don't have the slightest idea about business. In the first month of our marriage I kept the checkbook. My daddy came to see me. He said, "Son, this isn't working. I know you left. I know you cleft, but I have one more piece of advice. Give the checkbook to your wife. You are not a business man," and I recognize that, but I have learned this being around many of you: You don't sign contracts with people until you know what they're able to deliver. God is able to deliver. He's not only able to deliver this birth. He's able to deliver a Redeemer greater than Isaac. In fact, another birth He was able to deliver was yours. Sarah was as good as dead. You were dead, and He caused you to be born again to a living Hope.

Here is the last thought. The world is in the balance. I think they see that we believe the truth because they know we're serious about it. The frowns of Christianity are everywhere. Could there be some laughter? Could we, like Sarah, say, "Could everyone see the laughter of our joy?" I think we've made holy the sour look. Again, I'm not talking about triviality grinning, and I'm not talking about denying a broken heart. I'm not talking about denying difficulties in a sickness or death. I'm not talking about that, but I'm talking about that laughter that will eventually come through with the twinkle of an eye, the upturn of a mouth, the laughter of a soul, the joy of salvation. Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I will say rejoice (Philippians 4:4). The world is taking a look, and you can be there. The text tells us that God visited Sarah. God visited someone else beside Sarah. Zachariah said in the book of Luke that God visited Mary. Zachariah sung in Luke 1:68, "Oh, Lord, you have visited your people and brought us our salvation." It was not just Isaac. Isaac is in the line.

Come on down here hundreds of years now for now we're to Jesus. Look at the parallels which we will finish up with. First of all, before Jesus comes there was a forerunner. Who is the forerunner of Jesus? It is John the Baptist who was born to Zachariah and Elizabeth. When God said, "I'm going to give you a child," what did Zachariah say? He said, "I'm too old." It's like God is saying to Zachariah, "Oh, no. Zachariah have you ever read Genesis 21? You're not too old. You're not even close to 100 years old yet, Zachariah. I mean this is a piece of cake" and then comes John the Baptist.

Sarah received a promise from God, "I'm going to give you a child." Who else received a promise from God? It was Mary. Sarah had a miraculous supernatural birth. Mary had a supernatural unique virgin birth, one of a kind. Sarah had a husband, Abraham, a father, who in obedience gave the name that God had given to Isaac. Mary had a husband, who in obedience gave the name that had been given to him to give to this son, Yeshua, Jesus. Abraham circumcised Isaac on the eighth day. Joseph takes his child in for the purifications in the temple in obedience. This child, Isaac, is laughter and Sarah laughs. This child, Jesus, is born and Mary starts out with Sarah and says in Luke

1, “My soul does magnify the Lord, and I will rejoice in God, my spirit,” and yet Simeon will tell her, “Not long a sword will be driven through your heart and soul, and you will know the pain with this child.” With this child, Isaac, there is laughter. With this Child, Jesus, it is never recorded He laughed.

I did not say I don’t believe Jesus laughed. I believe Jesus in his 33 years here laughed. In fact, there are a couple parables I’m sure where there was a twinkle in His eye, but the Holy Spirit chose to record every human emotion that Jesus expressed, except laughter. Why? He was a Man of sorrows. What a name. Ruined sinners He came to claim. He will drink to the bottom the cup of suffering and sorrow that you and I might drink the cup of gladness and joy, and want everyone to drink from it.

This is where my heart breaks for so many, even some of you reading this today. Those I meet and talk to Satan comes and he says, “Here is laughter, promiscuous sex, perverted sex. Here America, here’s laughter. Redefine the family. Here, America, here’s laughter. Here’s joy. It’s a hidden room, a dark room, a computer screen with nobody looking.” The sites are visited that ought not to be visited. Here is laughter when you get more power, the next job, the next husband, the next wife. There is laughter when you embrace the idolatry of sin, but it is not the laughter of joy. It is the derision and mockery of Satan, as he laughs with the fiendish laugh from hell when another one has bought the lie.

With the Lord at His right hand, there are pleasures evermore. If you’ve not come to Him, would you today come to Jesus Christ? None of these idols that are lifted up in the world can bring you the joy that God has put in your heart that you want, but the joy of the Lord is forever. Dear Christian, don’t let Satan’s subtleties come back into your life through the unguarded moment, to think that there will be happiness over here, yet it only meets with broken families, broken hearts, broken dreams, broken lives. That’s all that comes with sin. There is no pleasure over here, but come to the pleasures of the Lord. Come and know Him. Glorify Him and enjoy Him forever. Come and know the laughter of joy in a Deliverer. Let’s pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the moments we could be together. Thank You for the Lord Jesus, our Redeemer, our Savior. Thank You for just the privilege to speak of these things. If you’re reading this and you’ve never yet received that Savior, would you this day turn from the idols of this world and come to Jesus Christ? Turn from yourself. The answer is not in yourself, and the answer isn’t for yourself. The answer is Christ. For to me to live is Christ and then to die is gain (Philippians 1:21). He’s my King. He’s my Lord. He’s my song. He’s my joy. There is the laughter of joy in Christ forever. Dear Lord, I pray that the people of God will enjoy not the last laugh, but they will enjoy the laughter of forever in Christ, our Lord. I pray in His name, Amen.