

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME?

God is trying to form you into His image. Will you let Him?

KEY POINTS

- ❖ Genesis 25:21-24 recounts the story of a barren woman, Rebekah; her husband Issacs's cry to God; and her subsequent pregnancy.
- ❖ This expectant mother felt something was wrong inside but (living about 3500 years ago) she had no access to technology to assist in diagnosing the problem.
- ❖ Rebekah got so frustrated that she went to God about the problem. Her question to God was, essentially: *What is happening to me?!!*
- ❖ "And the Lord said to her: 'Two nations are in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; One people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger'" (v. 23). Soon, Esau and Jacob were born. The struggle that began in the womb continued into men. It involved their parents and affected the future, right up to today.
- ❖ Have you ever asked Rebekah's question? What was swirling around you? Or *inside* you? What was taking place in your mind, your body, your emotions, your circumstances, that caused you to ask: God, "What is happening to me?!"
- ❖ Isaiah 43:1-3 tells us something about our lives from God's perspective: Before we ever breathed, we were being formed in the image of God.
- ❖ The thing that's happening to me, right now? The process is continuing. I am (you are, we are) being formed and *re-formed* into the image of God.
- ❖ This happens through the Word of God and also through the experiences of our lives. (See 1 Corinthians 3:18.)
- ❖ Jesus' disciple, Peter—within the space of a few hours—fell asleep during a crucial prayer meeting; committed an act of violence with a sword; and totally denied his best Friend and Saviour, whom he absolutely knew to be the Son of God.
- ❖ So, Peter almost certainly asked, in anguish, "*What* is happening to me?!" Later in Peter's life he left us two letters with very needed advice to help us deal with that very question.
- ❖ Take a look at 1 Peter 4: 12-14a:
Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. 14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.
- ❖ Peter tells us there are things that we deliberately need to do (read 2 Peter 1:4-11). We need to actively participate in the re-forming process. Why? So we can—more and more—"be partakers of the divine nature."
- ❖ There are characteristics of Jesus that you or I might find easier to "live out" than others. Maybe you're naturally a kind-hearted person and it's relatively easy for you to

KEY SCRIPTURES: Genesis 25:21-24;
Isaiah 43:1-3, 46:3-4; 1 Peter 4:12-16, 19;
2 Peter 1:5-11; Psalm 42:11

- ❖ "be...kind one to another..." (Ephesians 4:32). But that same verse continues:
"...tenderhearted, forgiving one another." Sometimes people who are naturally kind get deeply hurt when someone ignores their kindness or takes advantage of it, and it's not easy to climb out from that depth of hurt.
- ❖ As 'life happens', each of us needs to take notice of what is happening to us; *inside* us. And, as the apostle Peter put it, we need to "give all diligence" to making sure that what's being formed within us are the right things.
- ❖ Genesis 3:9 and 16:8 has God asking some questions. To Adam: Where are you? To Hagar: Where are you coming from and where are you going? It's not that God didn't know the answers to the questions; rather, He was prompting the listener to look deeply into themselves, asking the same questions.
- ❖ In Psalm 42:11, the psalmist is taking this inner journey, asking themselves, "Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me?" Sometimes we feel a vague disquiet or a growing sense of disturbance or annoyance. It's important to get to the core, to dig into what might be causing it. We need to ask the questions like the psalmist did and carefully consider: "Why are you cast down O my soul? ..."
- ❖ And we need to be ready to accept the honest answers as they arise. Then, after all the asking and digging, we need to remember to do one big thing: *Hope in God*. Yes, praise Him—our help and our God!
- ❖ There's a unique and particular music that God has composed for each of our lives. Every situation is an opportunity for us to decide, declare and demonstrate that we trust the Composer.
- ❖ What is happening to me? What is happening to us? We're being assured that in *everything*, God is with us. Every experience is forming and re-forming us into the image, characteristics and ways of God...and God invites us to willingly participate in the process.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Restate and discuss, based on the key scriptures, what God is trying to accomplish when "things are happening" in our lives.
2. Which of the above (or other) scriptures relates most to your experiences? Share a scripture that has challenged/encouraged you.

PRAYER TIME

Lord, in my time of turmoil I know You are with me, even when it doesn't feel like it. Thank You!

Start-up: What was/is the most confusing subject (or the one you had most difficulty with) in school? Did/Does anything help you to understand?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2022

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) ☁️ (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

PRAYER FOCUS: F.S. Ministries: Departments, Directors and Participants

Prayer Meetings: Monday and Wednesday @10:00 a.m.;
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89831915909>
Phone access: 647-374-4685



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note that in-person Sunday services are suspended until Sunday, January 23, 2022

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to www.faithsanctuary.com/give
For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com

IT'S HAPPENING...

DAILY MORNING DEVOTION
When: Monday to Friday @ 6:30 a.m.
(excluding public holidays)
Where: Prayer Line (see link above)
Beginning in the new year
Contact: Pastor A. Peel

FAITH SANCTUARY ON-LINE SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study @ 10:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service @ 11:00 a.m.
(Rebroadcast @ 3:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m. and Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.)
Monday Berean Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m.
(Zoom, Facebook, YouTube)

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

JANUARY 16, 2022



Faith
SANCTUARY
Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

2022 ~ The 3 "R's" ~ 2022
Restore • Refresh • Renew

Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

*"...that through these [exceedingly great and precious promises] you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.
2 Peter 1:4 NIV*

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