

Lessons from a Princess

Gleaning from the Life of Sarah

Lesson 1

From Contentious to a Princess

Theme verse: Genesis 17:15 - “ *And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a **mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her.***”

Scripture: Genesis 17:15 - “*And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be.*”

INTRODUCTION: God can change a life from nothing to something special for Him. We see it everyday. Maybe you see it when you look in the mirror. We see transformations in lives when they accept Jesus as Saviour. But sometimes, after salvation, we sadly do not see a lot of change in the person’s actions. Although a person is saved and on their way to Heaven, they seem to be going about their spiritual life with a “don’t care” attitude. These carnal Christians have ADDED the Lord to their life, but He is not their whole life.

Such was the life of Sarah in the Bible. We all know her as Sarah - which means “*princess*”. But, originally her name was Sarai - which means “*contentious*.” Sarah is one whom God took and made someone special for His sake. Sarai’s name did not change when she got saved. It was not until she had been through some trials and Christian growth that God finally crowned her with the name Sarah.

I SAVED

CONTENTIOUS - “*tending to argument or strife; quarrelsome*”

Unfortunately, many of us can identify with Sarai. She was saved and basically a godly woman. She was married to Abram (*before his name was changed to Abraham*). She was a faithful wife, and good daughter and family member. But her name meant “*contentious*”. There was a reason why God did not change her name right away. She evidently lived up to her argumentative name. Just because you have been saved, accepted Jesus as Saviour, does not mean you are instantly the most godly Christian on earth. It takes growth, prayer, Bible reading and study and most of all surrender to God’s will, to become a “*Sarah - princess*”.

Do a check up in your own life. Have you truly accepted Christ as Saviour? Do you know for sure you have a home in Heaven? Then, take an honest look in your heart and life. Could God change your name yet? Do any of the following apply?

- 1) Argue at the drop of a hat
- 2) Can’t keep your mouth shut - always have to give your opinion
- 3) Have to have the last word
- 4) Point out wrongs which you know will cause an argument
- 5) Never a peacemaker; always in the center of strife
- 6) Harsh, sarcastic words to family and friends, even strangers

II SUBMITTED

Sarai was definitely a submitted wife. She dutifully obeyed her husband and followed him to the ends of the earth.

A. Sarai left her homeland (Genesis 12:1)

God told Abram to leave his family and home and go to a land that He would show him later. How hard this had to be for Sarai! She not only had to pack up all she had, leave her family and the home she had known, but she had no idea WHERE she was going or what her living conditions would be. BUT SHE SUBMITTED AND WENT.

B. Sarai took her husband's nephew with her (Genesis 12:5)

Abram's nephew, Lot, went with them out of the land. Abram's father had just died while they were living in Haran. Lot's father had also died, so it fell to Abram and Sarai to take care of Lot. Considering the life of Lot in later years, it was likely that raising Lot was no picnic. BUT SARAI SUBMITTED AND HELPED TO RAISE LOT.

C. Sarai lied for her husband (Genesis 12:10-20)

On top of all the hardships Sarai dealt with, there was a famine in the land. They journeyed to Egypt to get food. Even at over 65 years old, she was so gorgeous that Abram was afraid he would be killed so that Pharaoh could have his wife. So, he told Sarai to tell them she was his sister, that way they may still take Sarai, but would not kill Abram. Either way, Sarai was not getting the good end of this deal. BUT SHE SUBMITTED AND DID AS ABRAM INSTRUCTED HER. However, she had been instructed to do wrong! Sarai did end up being taken by Pharaoh to his palace, but God intervened to prevent a disastrous result from happening concerning the great nation to come from Abram.

III SURRENDERED (Genesis 13-14)

Although Sarai was a submissive wife in many ways, she had not fully surrendered her life to her Saviour. She was still contentious. She may have submitted to leaving her homeland, but it must have been with some arguments. She may have submitted to raising Lot, but there were probably many fusses. She may have submitted to lying for Abram, but he may have never heard the end of what he put her through. (Maybe he deserved that one?) But through all of these trials, Sarai began to grow. She saw that she needed to not only trust her husband, but put her trust wholly in the Lord. When no one else was there, God was. It takes trials and problems to realize that God is always there, bringing the Christian through those tough times. As Sarai watched her husband make unselfish decisions time after time, she began to see Christ in him. As Sarai became closer to the Lord, it was an encouragement to Abram which made him a better leader. Once Sarai had surrendered her life to the Lord, God could then use her in a mighty way, to bring about a mighty nation.

CONCLUSION: Sarai waited so long to be blessed with a child. But it was not God's timing, possibly because Sarai was not ready to raise a son of the magnitude he would become. You can submit out of duty or just knowing it is the right thing to do, but still not be surrendered. Submission without surrender brings about no happiness or peace. A surrendered heart and spirit makes submission a natural action. Is there something in your life that you have begged God to grant? Are you spiritually in the surrendered position you need to be when He does grant it?

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Lesson 1 Study Guide Questions

Answer the following.

1. Sarai means _____.
2. Sarah means _____.
3. What, if any, are traits in your own life that may identify you with Sarai? _____

4. Give a brief account of when you were saved. _____

5. List 2 ways Sarai showed submission.
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
6. Who was Lot? _____
7. Why did Abram want Sarai to lie about being his wife? _____

8. At what point in her spiritual life did God change Sarai's name to Sarah? _____

9. A surrendered heart and spirit makes _____ a natural action.
10. What in your life would prevent that "*name change*" to princess? _____

11. What can you do to make it right? _____

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1. Sarai means Contentious.
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3. What, if any, are traits in your own life that may identify you with Sarai? _____

4. Give a brief account of when you were saved. _____

5. List 2 ways Sarai showed submission.
 - a) Left her homeland
 - b) Took in her husband's nephew; lied for her husband
6. Who was Lot? Abraham's nephew
7. Why did Abram want Sarai to lie about being his wife? Afraid he would be killed and she would be taken
8. At what point in her spiritual life did God change Sarai's name to Sarah? _____
When she fully surrendered
9. A surrendered heart and spirit makes Submission a natural action.
10. What in your life would prevent that "name change" to princess? _____

11. What can you do to make it right? _____