



Stay In Your Lane

The lines are your friends.

*China's "zero-tolerance" policy to deal with
Covid may indeed be the best approach to
protect the nation from the pandemic; we are
not critics of that.*

*But it is extremely difficult for foreigners to enter China right now, and here we are in the US, months **longer** than we planned. Frankly, at times, this **waiting** has caused us some deep frustration, even despair.*

*Also learning a lot about prayer. God is a
patient teacher.*

Impatience

Genesis 12:1 – 3

¹ The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people, and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

*² “I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.*

*³ I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”*

Impatience

Genesis 16

¹ Now **Sarai**, Abram's wife, had not been able to bear children for him. But she had an Egyptian servant named Hagar.

² So *Sarai said* to Abram, “*The LORD has prevented me from having children. Go and sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can have children through her.*” And Abram agreed with *Sarai’s proposal.*

³ So *Sarai*, Abram's wife, *took Hagar* the Egyptian servant and *gave her to Abram* as a wife. (This happened ten years after Abram had settled in the land of Canaan.)

*⁴ So Abram had sexual relations with Hagar,
and she became pregnant. But when Hagar
knew she was pregnant, she began to treat
her mistress, Sarai, with contempt.*

⁵ Then *Sarai said* to Abram, “This is all *your fault! I put* my servant into your arms, but now that she’s pregnant she treats me with contempt. *The LORD* will show *who’s wrong—you or me!*”

⁶ Abram replied, “Look, she is your servant, so deal with her as you see fit.” Then Sarai treated Hagar so harshly that she finally ran away.

Genesis 21

¹ The LORD kept his word and did for Sarah exactly what he had promised. ² She became pregnant, and she gave birth to a son for Abraham in his old age. This happened at just the time God had said it would.

⁸ When Isaac grew up and was about to be weaned, Abraham prepared a huge feast to celebrate the occasion. ⁹ But Sarah saw Ishmael - the son of Abraham and her Egyptian servant Hagar - making fun of her son, Isaac.

*¹⁰ So she turned to Abraham and demanded,
“Get rid of that slave woman and her son. He
is not going to share the inheritance with my
son, Isaac. I won’t have it!”*

*¹¹ This upset Abraham very much because Ishmael was **his son**. ¹² But God told Abraham, “Do not be upset over the boy and your servant. **Do whatever Sarah tells you**, for Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted.*

*¹³ But **I will** also make a nation of the
descendants of Hagar's son because **he is**
your son, too.”*

*¹⁴ So Abraham got up early the next morning,
prepared food and a container of water, and
strapped them on Hagar's shoulders. Then he
sent her away with their son, and she
wandered aimlessly in the wilderness of
Beersheba.*

Psalm 37

³ Trust in the LORD and do good. Then you will live safely in the land and prosper. ⁴ Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart's desires. ⁵ Commit everything you do to the LORD. Trust him, and he will help you.

*⁷ Be still in the presence of the LORD,
and wait patiently for him to act.*

*23 The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He
delights in every detail of their lives.*

*24 Though they stumble, they will never fall,
for the LORD holds them by the hand.*

*34 Put your hope in the LORD. Travel steadily
along his path. He will honor you by giving
you the land.*



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