

**Walking Together with God
A Day of Atonement
Holy Communion
Sermon Outline
September 6, 2020**

TEXT – Genesis 16: 1-4a; Genesis 21: 8-10

Reading Schedule

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|------------------|------|--------------------------------------------|
| Sunday | 9/6 | <i>Proverbs Ch. 6; Genesis 16: 1-16</i> |
| Monday | 9/7 | <i>Proverbs Ch. 7; Genesis 21: 1-21</i> |
| Tuesday | 9/8 | <i>Proverbs Ch. 8; Ephesians 6: 10-24</i> |
| Wednesday | 9/9 | <i>Proverbs Ch. 9; John 14: 1-14</i> |
| Thursday | 9/10 | <i>Proverbs Ch. 10; II Kings 6: 8-23</i> |
| Friday | 9/11 | <i>Proverbs Ch. 11; Proverbs 25: 21-22</i> |
| Saturday | 9/12 | <i>Proverbs Ch. 12; Ephesians 3: 14-21</i> |

We welcome our sisters and brothers who have joined the broadcast. The outline for this message with a daily Bible reading schedule can be found at Quinn Chapel's website www.quinnchicago.org

The share button to invite others to join us as we worship and pray for the end of violence in cities around America.

HOLY COMMUNION

(Standing before the communion elements) It's Communion Sunday!

A Day of Atonement – a day of reminding ourselves of our oneness with Almighty God!

The Story of Hagar and Ishmael

1. It's time to tell the story. We are telling a very familiar story found in the Bible in Genesis 16 and Genesis 21. But we're telling the story as seen through the lenses of Hagar and Ishmael.

Genesis 16: 1-4a – Now [the slave master's] wife, had borne him no children. But she had an [African] slave named Hagar; ² so [the slave master's wife] said to [the slave master], “The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, [have sex] with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her.”

[The slave master] agreed to what [the slave master's wife] said. ³ So after [the slave master] had been living in Canaan ten years, [the slave master's] wife took her [African] slave Hagar and gave her to [the slave master] to be his [concubine] . ⁴ He [had sex] with Hagar, and she conceived.

Genesis 21: 8-10 – ⁸ The child [of the slave master's wife] grew and was weaned, and on the day [the son of the slave master's wife] was weaned [the slave master] held a great feast. ⁹ But [the slave master's wife] saw that the son whom Hagar, [the African], had borne to [the slave master] was mocking, ¹⁰ and she said to [the slave master], “Get rid

of that slave woman and her son, for that woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son.

PRAYER

Introduction

- a. So often, we mistakenly believe that the perspective we have on an issue or matter is the only perspective that exists or the only perspective that matters.
 - b. We read the Bible and tell its stories from the perspective of those from whom we've become accustomed to hearing.
 - c. We read this story most often relating the experience of Abraham, the slave master and Sarah, the slave master's wife, as if they were the only human beings involved in the account.
 - d. They aren't the only persons involved.
 - i. There are Hagar, the African and her son, Ishmael.
2. Ishmael is a great nation born out of slavery (Gen. 21: 13)
- a. His mother, Hagar, the African, is a slave subjected to the will of her slave master, who imposes himself sexually on Hagar at the suggestion of her slave master's wife's.
 - i. Hagar, the African is a concubine and as a slave, she has no choice in the matter of submitting to the sexual advances of the master.

- ii. The definition of a concubine is a woman who is a mistress to a man with a wife or who cannot be married to her because of a difference in social status.
 - iii. A slave-girl for sexual service prominent in ancient cultures.
- b. Hagar's being violated is a matter of economics.
- i. Without a son in the slave master's bloodline, the inheritance of the master and his wife would be lost.
 - ii. The slave master and his wife didn't believe God for their provision and violated Hagar, the African to provide what they didn't trust God to provide.
 - iii. A warped and erred interpretation is that Hagar is favored by being taken advantage of.
 - 1. This interpretation finds its roots in the idea that Hagar, the African is of lesser value than those who enslaved her.
 - 2. Nothing could be further from the truth!
 - a. It's not okay to oppress others for economic gain
 - b. It's not okay to steal from the vulnerable to get rich
 - c. It's not okay to kill to maintain power

3. The entire world is still suffering from the consequences of the crime of the slave master and his wife in the Book of Genesis.
 - a. God did bless Hagar the African and her son Ishmael, but today the Arabs, who are the descendants of Ishmael and the Jews, who are the descendant of Isaac, are still fighting.
 - b. And today in America, there is
 - i. Unrest and violence,
 - ii. destruction of property, and murders of the innocent,
 - iii. disinvestment in our neighborhoods,
 - iv. TIF dollars shifted from neighborhoods to downtown projects,
 - v. school closures and inadequate school funding,
 - vi. predatory lending, food deserts, banking deserts,
 - vii. hospital closures and health care deserts,
 - viii. mass incarceration of black and brown people,

- ix. a need for more alternatives to the criminal justice system,
 - x. racial profiling, unequal treatment of persons by some law enforcement officers based on race.
- c. And when these conditions exist, **people lose hope**. And loss of hope results in **loss of courage, vision, and identity**.
- d. And our young people cry out, “Black Lives Matter” and someone else retorts, “All Lives Matter”. But do they?
- e. When **Trinity Health can announce the closure of a safety net hospital serving, Black, Brown, and Yellow people** in the near southside of Chicago, removing hundreds of beds in the midst of the worst pandemic the world has faced in one hundred years, “Do All Lives Matter?”
- f. When a **17-year-old with an AR-15 assault weapon** can walk into a protest killing 2 and wounding another and the 45th President of the United States of America doesn’t

condemn that act of terrorism and even attempts to justify it, “Do All Lives Matter?”

g. When the 45th President orders the cancellation of all federally funded contracts for diversity and Equal Employment Opportunity training across the United States, calling it “un-American,” “Do All Lives Matter?”

4. And fingers of accusation are now being pointed in every direction.

3. And it’s not until we remember that **“we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”** (Eph. 6: 12)

a. We’re engaged in spiritual warfare!

b. Times are difficult and tough.

c. **When things are difficult, you don’t respond according to the circumstances, you respond according to the nature of God!**

i. Use the example of tennis coaches teaching young players to get back in position, centering themselves so they can then attack.

- ii. The nature of God is the position from which we are to operate in these difficult times. God is saying, “Get back in position. Then you can attack.”
- iii. We know the nature of God by recalling the nature of Jesus Christ who told us, “Anyone who has seen me, has seen the Father.” (John 14: 9)

4. Responding according to the nature of God

a. Compassion – II Kings 6: 21-22 – Tell the story of Elisha informing the king of Israel of the plans of the king of Aram by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- i. The king of Aram sent army surrounded Elisha, and the servant asked, “ “Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?”
- ii. Elisha prayed, ““Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.” The servant opened his eyes to see chariots and horses of fire up on the hills surrounded the army that came to capture them.

1. There were 497 murders in Chicago as of August 30th
2. The question in our minds is, “Lord, what shall we do?”
3. The answer, “Lord, open our eyes, so we may see!”

- a. God will help us to see with spiritual eyes in the midst of what seem to be insurmountable forces of violence engulfing our neighborhoods.
 - b. The power of God is ours to address the issue of the spirit of violence.
- iii. Elisha prayed for God to blind the enemy army and he led them into the city of Samaria and had their eyes opened, only to find themselves now by the king of Samaria and all his troops.
1. When the king asked if he should kill the Aramean army Elisha said, “No. Feed them and give them water and comfort.”
 2. Have compassion and mercy on them.
 3. The army of Aram was not only touched by the physical provisions, but they were also genuinely touched with the spirit of compassion and mercy by which they were enveloped having received it from men who could have easily ended their lives. They no longer attacked Israel.
 4. God is trying to tell us that the answer to the problem of out of control violence in our cities is not more guns, more weapons, more patrol

officers, more force, more prosecutors, or more prisons.

5. The answer lies in the compassion demonstrated through acts that communicate the truth that the value of the lives in our most violence-stricken communities' matter as much as do the lives of those in our most affluent and wealthy localities.

6. Proverbs 25: 22 in the Passion Translation says, "Your surprising generosity will awaken his conscience..."

a. **Generosity is compassion in action!**

b. An awakened conscience is reflected in new-found courage, vision and identity.

7. Although provisions of capital investments, educational facilities and tools, better housing, grocery stores, medical care, and financial institutions will physically be required, the deeper impact will be experienced through the meaning these measures take on in the souls of those who have experienced life from the vantage point of those whose lives didn't matter and now do!

b. Next in describing the nature of God is Praise – We praise God for who God is. God is victorious

- i. The reason praise is our response is that Jesus has already conquered and destroyed the powers of darkness in this world.
- ii. When a new app is downloaded and installed on your phone, the screen directs you to open it;
 - 1. God downloaded Jesus to this earth and Jesus made the installation when He won the victory on the Cross at Calvary,
 - 2. Our job is to open the victory and implement it in the world.
- iii. When you take communion today, you're entering into spiritual warfare on behalf of our cities all over the country.
 - 1. You're implementing the victory over the spirit of violence in our cities. The victory is won.
 - 2. We're fighting from victory, not for victory!
 - 3. We're opening and applying what Christ has already won for us. And that's good news!

HOLY COMMUNION

- c. The third component of the nature of God is Worship –
 - i. Worship is the act of making an offering to One who is worthy to receive it.

- ii. In the Old Testament, the people of God came making offerings of grain, wine, meat, and oil before God.
- iii. At Calvary, Jesus was the consummate offering presented to God on behalf of all creation.
- iv. Today, as you partake in Holy Communion on behalf of our cities, make yourself the offering.
 - 1. As we commune with God through the broken body and shed blood of Jesus Christ, say to God, “I am the offering.”
 - 2. Use me Lord,
to release your victory in our communities,
where you have broken the spirit of violence
replacing it with the Spirit of Peace,
through the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.
- d. Join me now in applying the victory over violence that is ours through Jesus Christ by partaking in Holy Communion together.
 - i. The Bible tells how when blood was shed, the priests went to the place of bloodshed and made atonement by offering a sacrifice of a heifer on that site before God.
 - ii. Today as you partake of Holy communion, you’re standing in the office of priests of Almighty God.

1. You're applying the perfect sacrifice, Jesus Christ on every site in your city where blood has been shed.
2. You're applying Christ's victory over the spirit of violence.
- iii. Take the bread, wafer, cracker and let's eat it together – The broken body of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Broken to break and destroy the power of violence in our cities.
- iv. Now take the cup with wine, juice, water, or whatever you have. This cup symbolizes the shed blood of Jesus Christ, shed to cleanse away every stain and cover our cities with the power of God over the powers of darkness.

BENEDICTION BLESSING:

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3: 20-21)

The devil is terrified

The church is edified

And God is glorified