



## DGM Message Title: Turning a Mess into a Message

### Topic: Own up to your mistakes and God will be with you through the mess

**Message Summary:** God will turn your mess into a message... Test into a testimony... Trial into triumph. But when you make a mistake, you must own it. Call it what it is, not what you want it to be. Do what the Word says about it, and you will see the same results!

#### Scriptural References:

- Genesis 21:1-20 NKJV
- Genesis 16:1-2 NKJV

#### Key Points:

- Gen 21:1 NKJV
  - The promise didn't come to Sarah because she was perfect. It came to her because He promised.
  - The impossible is every day business with God.
  - God isn't limited to our ability to figure it out; only our willingness to believe.
- 21:2 NKJV
  - When God's on your side, perseverance pays off.
  - Perseverance is stubbornness with a purpose.
  - As we grow in our journey, we can let God move everything in its place or we can rush God and rush ahead and watch everything fall apart.
    - Just because it hasn't happened yet doesn't mean it won't happen.
- 21:3 NKJV
  - When God first told Sarah about Isaac, all she could do was laugh. She couldn't believe Him.
    - God told her to name Isaac (means laughter) to remind her that she originally laughed.
    - When God rebuked her, she submitted to Him.
    - He turned her rebuke into joy.
    - When we submit to God's discipline, we are always happier in the end.
- 21:4 NKJV
  - Medical science tells us that we shouldn't circumcise a child until after 8 days.
    - Finally, after thousands of years, medical science proved what God had been telling people to do, all along.
    - Maybe God knows a little more than we can imagine.

- 21:5 NKJV
  - Abraham had to persevere 25 years before God’s promise was fulfilled to him.
    - Just hang on a little longer, and God will come through for you!
- 21:6 NKJV
  - It may be tough at the moment, but God only disciplines us for the good.
  - “A smile is a curve that sets everything straight.” – Phyllis Diller
    - Give God some time and He will get you to the place where people will no longer laugh at you but with you.
- 21:7 NKJV
  - God will defy nature if He has to, to keep his promise to just 1 of his children.
- 21:8 NKJV
  - Isaac was probably weaned between 5-8 years old.
- 21:9 NKJV
  - It’s not easy for 2 women to share 1 man. (Sarah and Hagar)
    - It takes a real man to realize that one woman is more than enough.
  - Sarah saw Ismael scoffing at Isaac. He began to be jealous of Isaac’s inheritance.
    - She wasn’t going to let anyone hurt her baby.
- 21:10 NKJV
  - Sarah got so mad, she couldn’t even mention Hagar’s name.
- 21:11 NKJV
  - At first, Abraham just wanted Sarah to get along and calm down.
- 21:12 NKJV
  - God sided with Sarah.
    - “Whatever” Sarah says – there’s no restriction on what to obey.
  - Gen 16:1-2 NKJV
    - All this started because Sarah gave Abraham permission to lie with Hagar.
    - Desperation makes us do dumb things.
    - It’s so easy to believe what a person says when they are saying things they want to hear
  - So, when should a man listen to his wife?
    - When she’s right!
  - The burden of true leadership and the conundrum of the ages: you can’t live with women... you can’t live without them! But either way, you’re responsible.
- 21:13 NKJV
  - Abraham had so much favor that God even blessed his mistakes.
    - When he was willing to get back on track, God blessed everything he hurt.
- 21:14 NKJV
  - Abraham made sure Hagar and Ismael had everything they needed.
    - Hagar had a large burden, already.
    - God gives more grace to those who need it.
  - If I make no mistakes in my life, I could not save the world. So, neither can my making a mistake destroy it.

- None of us are Jesus and we need to lighten up.
    - God is not surprised by your mistakes.
    - Even if you didn't make those mistakes, everything wouldn't be perfect.
    - God isn't expecting you to be perfect. He just expects you to be better and to grow.
  - God allows us all to live under the same sky, but He won't make it so we can live under the same roof.
- 21:15 NKJV
  - Abraham had given her what she needed, but Hagar made a few wrong turns and ran out of supplies.
    - God promises to supply your needs, not your waste.
    - The fact that you've run out may be an indication that you're off-base.
    - But God will step in, anyway!
- 21:16 NKJV
  - Ismael was broken, and Hagar was depressed.
    - All they knew was his dad put them out.
  - Sometimes all you can do is cry.
- 21:17 NKJV
  - The way the boy came into the world was a mistake, but Ishmael was not a mistake!
    - God will never treat you like a mistake.
  - When God wrote a plan for our lives, it wasn't dependent on any human being perfect. It was dependent on Him being faithful.
    - What that person did to you doesn't matter
    - What matter is that God is true. He will keep you and preserve you.
    - Everything stolen and missing God can get back... if you just trust Him!
  - The angel knew what happened between Abraham and Hagar... but that didn't mean that what was between Hagar and God had to be the same way.
    - Your situation doesn't surprise God. In fact, He may be the one behind it all!
  - God hears you right where you are!
    - In the middle of your mess...
    - You may have gotten off track
    - You may have no provisions
    - But God hears!
- 21:18 NKJV
  - This promise is the same as the one God promised to Abraham through Isaac.
  - Ishmael didn't need to be jealous.
    - What's for you is for you.
    - What's not won't fit, anyway.
  - Ishmael came into his own.
  - Nothing can stop or block you from what God has for you.
- 21:19 NKJV
  - Hagar let the pain of her past blind her to present opportunities.

- When you finally get the chip off your shoulder, it was amazing what God can show you!
- Ishmael recovered!
- 21:20 NKJV
  - If we listen to how God wants us to deal with our mistakes, He can be with our mistakes.
    - Ishmael's birth was a mistake.
    - But when the mistake was handled properly, God was with him, anyway!
  - God has a way to do what no one else can do.
  - There may be pain. Decisions must be made. But the right decision will allow God to take care of it!
  - If God can't cause good to come out of bad, we have no hope.
- The miracle of the story is that God was with Ishmael.
  - He will turn your mess into a message... Test into a testimony... Trial into triumph
  - But when you make a mistake, you must own it, call it what it is, not what you want it to be.
  - Do what the Word says about it, and you will see the same results!