

Galatians 4: Who's Your Momma?

5-Day Devotional

Overview of Sermon, Devotion Below

Who's Your Momma?

SERIES: "NO FINE PRINT, ALL GRACE" | TEXT: GALATIANS 4



THE BIG IDEA

You are already known by God — already indispensable — so you can stop adding and come home to the joy you were made for.

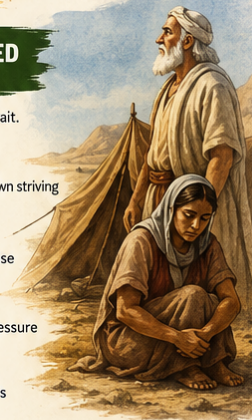
1 THE WORLD'S ECONOMY (THE ADDING AND GRADING LIFE)

- Grace is free. Unwrap the gift that has already been given.
- Jesus tells Thomas, "Put your finger and touch the gift that has been given."
- Recap 3:28 — Paul already told us: the grading system is over
 - "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."*
- And yet — we keep grading anyway like comparing test scores in High School
- Keep up with the Joneses
- Put others down to feel better about yourself
- Prove your worth. Become indispensable.
- The adding life is the grading life — requires losers to have winners
- Exhausting because you're fighting what Christ already settled
 - You're paying tolls on a road that was made free*

Ishmael or Isaac? — not just a one-time choice, the choice you're making right now.

2 WHERE THIS STARTED (ABRAHAM'S SIN)

- God made a promise. Abraham couldn't wait. Couldn't trust.
- Went to Hagar — tried to help God along
- Ishmael = what we produce through our own striving
- When we do our own thing, it is "The Hagar Method"
- This is in all of us — we believe the promise AND we go to Hagar anyway
- Connect to Galatians 2: Peter had the right theology, wrong response under pressure
 - He bounced back to adding when the Jerusalem crowd showed up
 - We all bounce between lineages — this isn't ignorance of grace, it's fear



3 TWO MOTHERS, TWO SONS

<p>HAGAR The Slave Woman</p> <p>ISHMAEL Self-manufactured Earned Produced by striving</p>	<p>VS.</p>	<p>SARAH The Free Woman</p> <p>ISAAC Impossible Promise-received Given by God</p>
---	------------	---

- Tollbooth road vs. freeway — which one are you on this week?
- Will you choose the buffet of grace or the cold fast food burger of doing things "our way"

4 THE TURN (GALATIANS 4:8-9)

"Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. But now that you know God — or rather, are known by God — how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?"

- Paul catches himself mid-sentence — "or rather, are known by God"
 - Even your knowing is downstream of God's knowing
 - You didn't find grace. Grace found you.
- That's not a small correction — that's the whole foundation
- Know your past, but don't ever let it define you.
- God knows you. God knows what is good for you. Don't go backwards.



DON'T GO BACKWARDS.
Stay on the road of grace.

5 THE INVITATION

- As you are — you are already indispensable
Not comparatively. Not conditionally. Already.
- You don't have to add anything to be known
- Grace has been waiting for you since the resurrection
- That's where the joy went — and that's how it comes back

Who's your momma?

CHOOSE GRACE. LIVE FREE. WALK AS A SON.

YOU ARE ALREADY KNOWN BY GOD. COME HOME TO THE JOY YOU WERE MADE FOR.

Day 1: The Gift Already Given

Reading: Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Devotional

Grace sits like a wrapped gift on the table of your life. It's already yours—purchased by Christ's outstretched arms on the cross. Yet many of us leave it unopened, uncertain if something so valuable could truly be free. Today, consider what keeps you from unwrapping God's gift. Is it doubt? Unworthiness? The lie that you must earn it first? Grace isn't a reward for good behavior; it's the foundation of your relationship with God. You are already known, already loved, already forgiven. Stop reaching for substitutes and open the gift. Touch the wounds of Christ and believe: this grace is for you.

Reflection Question: *What "wrapped gift" of grace have you been leaving untouched in your spiritual life?*

Day 2: No More Comparisons

Reading: Galatians 3:26-29

²⁶ So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Devotional

We're experts at grading ourselves against others, finding comfort in being "better than." But Christ erases all these human distinctions. In Him, there are no winners and losers, no first-class and economy Christians. Your baptism washed away every label you use to elevate yourself or diminish others. You're simply a child of God—no more, no less. This levels the playing field completely. Stop comparing test scores in the hallway of faith. Without Christ, we all fail; with Christ, we all pass. The ground at the foot of the cross is level. Stand there today, equal with every other believer, wrapped in the same grace.

Reflection Question: *Who are you comparing yourself to, and how is this preventing you from fully receiving grace?*

Day 3: Abraham's Two Sons, Your Two Choices

Reading: Galatians 4:21-31

²¹ Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. ²³ His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a divine promise.

²⁴ These things are being taken figuratively: The women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. ²⁵ Now Hagar stands for

Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶ But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. ²⁷ For it is written: "Be glad, barren woman, you who never bore a child; shout for joy and cry aloud, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband."

²⁸ Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise. ²⁹ At that time the son born according to the flesh persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. ³⁰ But what does Scripture say? "Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman's son." ³¹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.

Devotional

Abraham tried to help God along, orchestrating a human solution to a divine promise. The result? Ishmael—born the ordinary way, through human effort and striving. But God's promise remained: Isaac would come through grace, not works. You face the same choice daily. Will you be a child of Hagar—earning, performing, proving your worth? Or a child of Sarah—resting in promise, receiving grace freely? The world's way feels manageable and familiar, like a cold burger on a dirty table. But God offers a feast—lavish, undeserved, abundant. Which table are you choosing? The tollway where you keep paying, or the freeway of grace?

Reflection Question: In what areas of your faith are you trying to "help God along" instead of trusting His promises?

Day 4: Known Before You Knew

Reading: 1 John 4:9-10, 19

⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.

Devotional

Paul catches himself mid-sentence: "Now that you know God—or rather are known by God." This isn't a small correction; it's everything. You didn't find grace; grace found you. You didn't discover God; He revealed Himself to you. This shifts the entire foundation of faith from your performance to His pursuit. You don't have to chase after God's approval or add anything to be seen—you are already known. Before you took a single step toward Him, He was running toward you. This is the heart of grace: we love because He first loved us. Rest in being known today, not in trying to be noticed.

Reflection Question: How does knowing that God pursued you first change your approach to faith and spiritual disciplines?

Day 5: Don't Return to Slavery

Reading: Galatians 4:8-9; Romans 8:14-17

Galatians 4:8-9

⁸ Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. ⁹ But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?

Romans 8:14-17

¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Devotional

Why do we keep returning to the weak and miserable principles of performance-based faith? Paul asks this question with genuine bewilderment. You've tasted freedom—why choose slavery again? Perhaps it's because grace feels too good to be true, or because the world's system feels more predictable. But returning to spiritual junk food will only give you heartburn. You are not a slave; you are an heir. You have not received a spirit of fear, but of adoption. Don't forget where you came from, but never let it define you moving forward. Choose the feast over famine. Choose the freeway over the tollway. Choose grace.

Reflection Question: What "weak and miserable principles" are you tempted to return to, and what would it look like to walk in freedom today?

Closing Prayer

Father, help us embrace the simple, scandalous truth of grace. Forgive us for adding to what Christ completed and for comparing ourselves to others. Teach us to live as children of promise, not performance. May we feast at Your table of abundance and never return to the scraps of worldly approval. We are known, we are loved, we are Yours. Amen.