

Divinely Blessed & Restored

Let God Handle It!®

by: Rev. Doris B. Ryans

**I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. Psalms 40:1
(KJV)**

A mess! Sometimes I find myself in the middle of a mess! Do you? Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines mess as: an unpleasant state or condition, disorderly, untidy, offensive, usually because of blundering, laxity, or misconduct. Clearly a mess is the result of one's actions, it is not something one can blame on someone else! Due to its unpleasantness, it creates havoc in our life and we are quick to declare we are in the midst of a trial and tribulation. Yes, the affect of the mess we have found ourselves in might be leading to suffering and pain, the root of the problem is still the result of a mess. But guess what.....God can handle your mess!!!

As in any other situation in life, individuals' creating a mess is not new, as we see in the life of Sarai, the wife of Abram. Sarai managed to create a situation that became unpleasant, uncomfortable, and full of confusion. Sarah was the wife of Abram, and although God had promised Abram a son Sarai had remained barren for many years- the years that a woman would normally bear children. Knowing God had promised Abram a son, being barren, she figured it was God's intent that Abram's son would come forth through another – her handmaiden. You see, it was customary in Biblical times for a barren woman to give her handmaid to her husband for her to bear a child who would be considered her child.

So, one day Sarai decided to take matters into her own hands and had her husband lie with the handmaiden and she became pregnant. As soon as that happened the drama began. Once Hager conceived, she and Sarai began to be at odds. Hagar felt superior to Sarai since she was able to give Abram a child and Sarai appeared to be barren.

Sarai went to Abram complaining and asked him to deal with the situation. He pretty much told her, she's your handmaid, do as she please. Sarai's tactic was to treat Hagar badly and she eventually ran away. But the Lord made Hagar return and submit herself to Sarai. (The Lord forced Sarai to deal with the situation she created; the mess she had made and Hagar had to do the same). Hagar bore Abram a son, Ishmael. But years later, when Abram was 100 years old and Sarai was 90, the Lord reminded Abram that he was going to have a son, and that his wife Sarai would bear this son. Abram (now Abraham) and Sarai (now Sarah) both thought that would be incredible because of their age, but Sarah bore a child and he was named Isaac. Upon Isaac's birth he became Abram's heir over Ishmael who had been treated as Abram's son and heir until then. Sarah demanded that Hagar and her son Ishmael leave the home and Abraham consented.

Continued on page -2

Hagar was forced to leave with little provision for her child and she worried that he would die because she couldn't provide for him, but God was faithful and provided for Hagar and Ishmael. Ishmael was also blessed and would become the father of a great nation.

Without a doubt, Sarah's actions created a mess and Hagar also contributed with her gloating. Sarah's impatience, her lack of faith created a mess in her and Abraham's life. But even in the midst of the mess, God remained faithful to Sarah and allowed her to bear a son and he provided for and blessed Hagar's son Ishmael. God took Sarah's mess and Hagar's mess and allowed good things to come forth.

Psalms 37:23 (KJV) tells us: "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way."

As we face situations in our life, we must acknowledge our hand at work. Have we allowed our impatience, our lack of faith in God to drive us to taking things into our own hands? We create messes then when times get hard, we cry out to God, asking for divine intervention when the problem is us. We ask Him to fix the mess, but we really need to ask Him to fix the creator of the mess – us!

Sarah's story illustrates three key things that created the breeding ground for mess in her life; impatience, lack of faith, and assuming God's role. Let's look at each. Impatience occurs when we get tired of waiting for God to deliver or provide our requests. Our impatience leads to a wavering faith. Before you know it you're saying "Lord you promised, but why is it taking so long. I guess you really aren't going to do for me what you said you would." Realize Sarah was a woman of faith, she's the first woman listed in the Hall of Faith in Hebrews 11. Even being a woman of faith, she allowed circumstances to weaken her faith and just like Sarah, the same can occur to us. Once her faith was shaken, she decided to take things into her own hands and she became "God". She decided *when* the "baby" was to come and how it was to happen. How many times have you been like Sarah? Decided how a situation in life should play out, developed the plan, implemented the plan and find yourself with a mess in your hands!

But guess what.....
God can handle your
mess!!

Psalms 37:23 (KJV) tells us: "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way. As Christians, our steps are to be ordered by the Lord. We must stop trying to create and orchestrate situations into what we want them to be. The, next time things aren't moving as you feel they should, when it seems that things are "on hold", don't let your human intellect make you try to become God. Remember, God is an on time God. He may not come when you want Him, but He's right on time! So next time you are tempted to take matters into your own hands, give yourself a break - let God be God all by Himself. ***He Can Handle It!!!***

HAVE YOU STARTED YOUR JOURNEY WITH CHRIST?

Our purpose in this article and daily scriptures is to encourage a heart-to-heart relationship with God. If you do not know God in a personal way, we invite you to make the first step today to receive God's love and the salvation that only Jesus Christ can give. Here are five steps you can take to receive salvation:

1. Recognize you are a sinner and need salvation. The Bible tells us "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).
2. Repent of your sins. Sin separates us from God. By confessing your sins and turning from them you are forgiven. The Bible says: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).
3. Believe in Jesus. God sent His Son to die so that He could pay for all our sins. The Bible says: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life: (John 3:16).

Continued on page -3

4. Receive His Salvation. Jesus Christ is a gift you must receive and welcome to live in your heart. He promises: "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God: (John 1:12).
5. Confess your belief verbally. The Bible assures "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved: (Rom. 10:9).

You now have been born again! Tell some else your good news and connect yourself with a church home as soon as possible. God Bless and Keep You!

Divinely Blessed & Restored

P.O. Box 31-1405
 Detroit, MI 48231
 Ph: 313-566-0944
 Fx: 313-566-0945

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Doris B. Ryans – President
 (Executive Director)

Joyce D. Williams – Vice President
 Asst. Executive Director

Zenell B. Brown – Secretary
 Legal & Grants

Colleen V. Ealy – Treasurer
 Site & Program Coordination

Internet Website:
www.divinelyblessedandrestored.org

Jason Coleman – Article Graphic
 Designer/Webmaster



March

**COFFEE, TEA & THEE ®
 CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB**

Meet and Discuss. It's not about you It's about God!
 by: **Rebecca Florence Osaigbovo**
February 7 – March 27, 2008
 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. @ Panera Breads

April

Rev. Doris B. Ryans' Preaching Engagements

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Ecorse, Michigan
Wednesday, April 2, 2008
 7:00 p.m.

Centenary United Methodist Church, Memphis, Tennessee
 Woman's Day Service
Sunday April 13, 2008
 10:30 a.m.

October

Save the Date – 3rd Women's Retreat
 The Retreat Center at St. John's, Plymouth, Michigan
October 10 – 12, 2008

Make sure that you check our website for updates and upcoming events!!