

Hearkened to the Voice of Sarai

Everything is competing for our audience. We need to be careful what we hear and how we hear. Hearkening to the wrong thing could be a cause for error and disaster.

1. Abram hearkened to Sarai

Genesis 16:2 And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the Lord hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.

- a) Who have you been hearkening to? We should be hearkening to the Lord. Anyone who says anything contrary to the word of God should never be hearkened to.
- b) Abram was not smart to hearken to his wife rather than the Lord. This decision of hearkening to her rather than the Lord cost him and brought strife and problems into his family to this day. The Jews (descendants of Isaac) and the Arabs (descendants of Ishmael) are constantly in fight.
- c) If you do not hearken to the Lord, you will give birth to an 'Ishmael.'
- d) There is a saying; happy wife, happy life. Abram either listened to his wife to avoid conflict or because he wanted to have sex all along with Hagar. We can't just hearken to our spouses neglecting what the Word of God teaches or His voice.

2. Adam hearkened to Eve

Genesis 3:17 *And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;*

- a) When we hearken to the wrong voice, it brings damage and sin. Adam sinned as soon as he hearkened to Eve. He was supposed to be hearkening to the Lord, not Eve.
- b) When we listen to other voices other than the Lord's, we sin and error. One of the ways we listen and hearken to the Lord's voice is through His Word.
- c) We will succeed and only excel to the degree that we hearken to God's voice.

3. Joseph hearkened not into her.

Genesis 39:10 *And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.*

- a) There will always be pressure to hearken to the wrong voice. We need to stay true to the Lord hearkening to no other.
- b) Joseph did not give in to pressure, and he hearkened not unto her.

4. Cease to hear

Proverbs 19:27 *Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.*

- a) It doesn't get any clearer than this. You need to STOP hearing instruction that is causing you to error from the Word of God. This also means you have know the Word of God to know and discern error so you can avoid and cease hearing it.

- i) Mark 12:24 And Jesus answering said unto them, *Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?*