

LOOKING IN THREE DIRECTIONS

Genesis 16:8

Introduction: Hagar had run away from her mistress, Sara, because she was with child from Abraham and that made Sara jealous and therefore she was making Hagar's life miserable, so Hagar ran away. An Angel came to where Hagar was and asked her: Where had she come from and Where was she going.

Seniors do a lot of looking back at things they enjoyed and things they are glad are over, and they talk about how things are at the present. They (we) also talk about what is left, what lies ahead.

Church, let's do these three things this morning, let's look back, look around, and look at the future.

I. TAKE A LOOK BACK

1. What brought Hagar to where she was?
2. Church, how did you get to where you are today? What, who, circumstances got you to today?
 - Appreciate the past
 - Those who contributed so much
 - Those who started this Church
 - Look at the building, the baptisms, the weddings, the funerals, the growth, lives changed
 - Don't get hung up on the past as so many churches do for in doing so you will fail to see what's around you now and what lies ahead.
3. Now as individuals, do the same thing. Take a look back into your own lives. How did you get to where you are today? Who, What, the circumstances.
 - Forget the hurts and wrongs done to you.
 - Forget those sins God has forgiven you of (Psalm 102:30)
 - Remember the good things, God's grace, goodness, salvation, forgiveness.
4. Church, never forget how you got to where you are today.

II. TAKE A LOOK AROUND

1. Church, take a look around you. What do you see?
 - Where are you as a Church (not on the side of a road), but where are you in God's plans?
 - You can't live in the past as many churches try to do, nor can you rest on past accomplishments.
 - What are you here for?
 - Are you using what you have? Are you standing still, in neutral, treading "water?"
 - Look at what you have:
 - Your building - friendly people - unity - location

2. Now as individuals, take a look at where you are in your life.
 - "Adam, where are you?" called out God.
 - So, where are you in your life's journey?
 - If you are saved, you are supposed to be a new person, different from the rest of the world.
 - Are you living like you have been saved?
 - Are you faithful? Are you active? Are you loyal?
 - Are you an example for others as how to live like Jesus wants you to live?
 - Are you positive in your outlook? The world is full of negativism, cranky, sour people, don't be counted as one of them.
 - Consider what you can still do with your life for God. If you are still here, then God is not through with you yet.

III. TAKE A LOOK AHEAD

1. The angel asked Hagar, "where are you going?"
2. Rocky Point Baptist Church, where are you going from today?
 - What is your vision? Your plans?
 - Don't focus on what you have done or on staying as you are.
 - Focus on doing the Church's only business and that is reaching people for Jesus and then teaching them God's Word. That's YOUR only business and purpose for being here.
3. How does this happen?
 - How can you build upon all the good that has already been done in the past and become a strong, growing, soul winning, Bible teaching, ministering Church that God wants you to be?
4. What are the essentials?
 - Members, get your heart right with God - examine yourselves - prove yourselves.
 - Get in God's will, get forgiveness if needed, make a new start.
 - Get active doing the great commission.
 - Everybody can do something, not the same thing, for everybody has a God-given ability.
 - Everybody can pray.

CONCLUSION:

1. Story of millionaire who died and his art work put on auction. First item was a portrait of his son. Nobody wanted to bid..finally someone did and bought the painting. Then the auctioneer stated that the auction was over for the dead millionaire had in his will that whoever bought his son's portrait would get all the other art work free.
 - Thus it is with God. Whoever gets His Son, Jesus, gets all that God has.
2. Baptist Church, whatever the past, whatever the present, God can make the future dynamic - it's up to you.