When The Bottom Drops Out

Genesis 21:1-20

When The Bottom Drops Out.

- Are you someone who likes to plan, prepare for every possibility, and know all the details ahead of time?

- Are you someone who has an idea where you want to go and you'll figure it out along the way. You just roll with life's punches?

When The Bottom Drops Out.

- Hagar is once again the victim of Sarah's anger.
- She is once again in the desert, alone, powerless, faceless, unseen, without direction, wandering and lost.

- When have you felt completely powerless? How did you cope with it?
- Are you there today? At the bottom of the pit looking up? Looking around at your life and seeing no 'Exit'?

When The Bottom Drops Out.

- Perhaps Hagar asked:
  - Where are you God?
  - Do you see me? Do you hear me?
  - Do you care?
  - Do you have a plan?
  - Anytime now?!
  - Is this how it ends?

When The Bottom Drops Out.

What do you do when something comes up in life you haven’t planned for? There no time to do it now. It’s too late.

What do you do when you can’t MacGyver your way out? When life has hit you so hard it’s knocked you on your back and you can’t get up?

When The Bottom Drops Out.

- When our life is out of control our first response is often fear.
- It is why God first response to most people in dire situations is “Do not be afraid.”
- Fear drives us away from God. Fear tells us God isn’t here or isn’t enough.
- Fear drives us to follow people with power who praise a way out because we doubt God is enough.
- Who has your fear driven you to follow today? Where do you lack trust in God?

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- The angel reminds Hagar who He is:
  - El Roi- the God who sees.
  - Ishmael- He (God) hears.
- Our God sees us and hears every cry, prayer, and thought.
- He is aware of everything you are going through.
- He has not left you alone.
- He has a plan.

When The Bottom Drops Out.

- Our struggle is often:
  - Why the delay?
  - Couldn’t you have done something sooner?
- God’s ways are higher than ours.
- God’s thought are beyond us.
- God invites us to trust him.

When The Bottom Drops Out.

- Why does God seem to wait? Never given an answer. But:
  - We so often focus on our comfort, avoiding struggle, pain and hardship. We live in a society that tries to remove all of these from our life and sells us a safe life.
  - God does not promise a "safe life". He promises he is with you. God’s goal is the transformation of our live and hearts to look like Jesus.
  - He will use anything at His disposal to make that happen.

When The Bottom Drops Out.

- We often won’t acknowledge God until we reach the end of what we can do. When we finally admit defeat is when God often shows up. Because that’s when we have to admit we need God. Without Him we can do nothing.
- “When we reach the end of us that is where God begins” - Billy Graham
- It’s in those moments the God we knew from a distant becomes near and real and we are forever changed.

When The Bottom Drops Out.

- There is a pattern in Scripture of God’s people going through an ordeal and then God comes and brings us revelation.
- A revelation of who He is.
- A revelation that brings us great trust and faith in God.
- A revelation that reminds us God has always had a plan.

When The Bottom Drops Out.

- Where are you today? Have you reached rock bottom?
  - Know that God sees you. God hears every cry, question, thought and prayer. Know that God has a plan which he will reveal when the time is right.
- Are you still trying to muscle your way through life? Are you finding the small hole getting deeper?
- Will you stop and admit you need God? Tell Him why you have trouble stopping and you'll discover where you need Him to change your heart.