

EL ROI – THE GOD WHO SEES ME

GENESIS 16

Text: Genesis 16:13

Genesis 16:13

¹³ And she called the name of the LORD that spake unto her, Thou God seest me: for she said, Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?

Introduction:

We have in this passage a difficult situation. Abraham and Sarah have tried to help God out with His promise that he had given them about fathering a great nation. In doing so they involved Sarah's handmaid, Hagar.

Genesis 16:1-6

¹ Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name *was* Hagar. 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. ³ And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife. ⁴ And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes. ⁵ And Sarai said unto Abram, My wrong *be* upon thee: I have given my maid into thy bosom; and when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes: the LORD judge between me and thee. ⁶ But Abram said unto Sarai, Behold, thy maid *is* in thy hand; do to her as it pleaseth thee. And when Sarai dealt hardly with her, she fled from her face.

This marks the beginning of some serious family problems.

Notice:

1. DISASTER OF ABRAHAM AND SARAH

Most of you know some of the background behind this story. God has promised Abraham that he will make him a great nation, which would obviously involve a family and descendants.

Genesis 12:1-3

¹Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: ²And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: ³And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

What wonderful promise. However ten years later they still had no children.

Abraham is 85 years old.

By the time our text opens in Genesis 16 we've got a couple of pretty discouraged.

So Sarah works up a plan. Abraham's faith is wobbly as well and he goes along with the idea.

We must remember that God's doesn't need our plans to fulfill His promises.

There are a couple of problems here.

A. First Problem – It's Their Idea and Not God's

They are not hearing from the Lord. They are not even asking for guidance. They are simply trying to address a problem that seems to need addressing.

B. Second Problem – It Callously Uses Another Person

Hagar is Sarah's servant. What Sarah suggests here is practiced and commonly accepted in the culture of that day, however just because everybody is doing something or something is accepted in the culture doesn't make it right!

The standard is not—is it socially acceptable. The standard is—is it God's will.

2. DESECRATION OF HAGAR

In that culture she had no choice but to do as she was told. She was a victim; this sin was not her fault. However, once she conceives then she develops a problem with pride.

Genesis 16:4

⁴ And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.

That word despised can also mean to curse.

Hagar has an attitude toward Sarah and Sarah is not going to tolerate it.

We have to understand that in this cultural Sarah was Hagar's boss whether she was a good boss or not.

At this point there is a real mess in this home.

It's easy to understand why Hagar left. That had to be a miserable situation for her. But running was not the answer for Hagar.

In fact, God tells her to go back and submit to Sarah.

Genesis 16:7-16

⁷ And the angel of the LORD found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur. ⁸ And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence camest thou? and whither wilt thou go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai. ⁹ And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands. ¹⁰ And the angel of the LORD said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude. ¹¹ And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou *art* with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction. ¹² And he will be a wild man; his hand *will be* against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren. ¹³ And she called

the name of the LORD that spake unto her, Thou God seest me: for she said, Have I also here looked after him that seeth me? ¹⁴ Wherefore the well was called Beerlahairoi; behold, *it is* between Kadesh and Bered. ¹⁵ And Hagar bare Abram a son: and Abram called his son's name, which Hagar bare, Ishmael. ¹⁶ And Abram was fourscore and six years old, when Hagar bare Ishmael to Abram.

Hagar has run away from home. She feels alone and rejected.

3. DIRECTIVE FROM GOD

Now there is Hagar frustrated, hurt, exhausted, and disoriented. Abraham has made serious mistakes. Sarah has blown it. Hagar has not responded right either. So what does God do with these messed up people?

He graciously steps into their lives and redeems the situation.

Notice again Genesis 16:7

Genesis 16:7

⁷ And the angel of the LORD found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur.

Hagar's not doing pious, religious things. There's no indication that she's praying. She's just running from a bad situation.

The Lord does two things for Hagar in this passage:

A. He Instructs Her (vs. 9)

Genesis 16:9

⁹ And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands.

The good news is Hagar obeys. And God strengthens her by making some promises.

B. He Encourages Her (vs. 10-11)

Genesis 16:10-11

¹⁰ And the angel of the LORD said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude. ¹¹ And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou *art* with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction.

She is promised to have a multitude of descendents.

And the Lord also let her know that the baby that she was going to have was going to be a son and she was to name him Ishmael, because the Lord had seen and heard her affliction.

No doubt she had felt abandoned.

The Psalmist felt that way.

Psalms 44:22-26

²² Yea, for thy sake are we killed all the day long; we are counted as sheep for the slaughter. ²³ Awake, why sleepest thou, O Lord? arise, cast *us* not off for ever. ²⁴ Wherefore hidest thou thy face, *and* forgettest our affliction and our oppression? ²⁵ For our soul is bowed down to the dust: our belly cleaveth unto the earth. ²⁶ Arise for our help, and redeem us for thy mercies' sake.

4. DISCOVERY OF HAGAR

Hagar made an amazing discovery.

Look at poor Hagar here. She has hit bottom. Nothing seems to be going right. She really doesn't know what to do. If you've been a slave all your life and told every move to make, it's real hard to make decisions.

But notice Genesis 16:13:

Genesis 16:13

¹³ And she called the name of the LORD that spake unto her, Thou God seest me: for she said, Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?

She says I have now seen the One who sees me!

She didn't think anyone knew or cared what she was going through. She probably thought Abraham and Sarah cared about her. But after what she had just

gone through she didn't believe that anymore. Does anybody care what I'm going through?

But she discovered that the Lord cared enough to meet with her and speak to her. She discovered that God is a God who sees me.

In Gen. 21 Hagar goes through another episode where God reveals Himself to her.

Genesis 21:1-20

¹ And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken. ² For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. ³ And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac. ⁴ And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac being eight days old, as God had commanded him. ⁵ And Abraham was an hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him. ⁶ And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, *so that* all that hear will laugh with me. ⁷ And she said, Who would have said unto Abraham, that Sarah should have given children suck? for I have born *him* a son in his old age. ⁸ And the child grew, and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast the *same* day that Isaac was weaned. ⁹ And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking. ¹⁰ Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, *even* with Isaac. ¹¹ And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son. ¹² And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called. ¹³ And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a nation, because he *is* thy seed. ¹⁴ And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took bread, and a

bottle of water, and gave *it* unto Hagar, putting *it* on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away: and she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba. ¹⁵ And the water was spent in the bottle, and she cast the child under one of the shrubs. ¹⁶ And she went, and sat her down over against *him* a good way off, as it were a bowshot: for she said, Let me not see the death of the child. And she sat over against *him*, and lift up her voice, and wept. ¹⁷ And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, What aileth thee, Hagar? fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he *is*. ¹⁸ Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand; for I will make him a great nation. ¹⁹ And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink. ²⁰ And God was with the lad; and he grew, and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer.

Close:

I glad that we have a God who see us. He is touched with the feelings of our infirmities. No matter is circumstances and situation, He can intervene and what seems to be a problem can result in a blessing.