



MESSAGE/SERIES:

Series: BIBLICAL BEGINNINGS

Message: "MY PERCEPTION AND MY PLAN IS MY PROBLEM"

Text: 1 Corinthians 16:1-24

DATE: June 28, 2020

SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK:

(These verses will help you understand themes within as you read our core text as scripture proves scripture)

Genesis 16:1-16, Genesis 25:18 (Descendants of Ishmael/Hostility), Galatians 4:22-25, Genesis 17:19, Genesis 15:4, 1 Peter 5:6 (Humble yourself under mighty hand of God), Hebrews 11:6

OPENING SCRIPTURE:

[Genesis 16]

"Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. ² And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. ³ So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife. ⁴ And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. ⁵ And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she

looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!”⁶ But Abram said to Sarai, “Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please.” Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her.

⁷ The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. ⁸ And he said, “Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?” She said, “I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai.” ⁹ The angel of the Lord said to her, “Return to your mistress and submit to her.” ¹⁰ The angel of the Lord also said to her, “I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude.” ¹¹ And the angel of the Lord said to her,

“Behold, you are pregnant
and shall bear a son.
You shall call his name Ishmael,
because the Lord has listened to your affliction.
¹² He shall be a wild donkey of a man,
his hand against everyone
and everyone’s hand against him,
and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen.”

¹³ So she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, “You are a God of seeing,” for she said, “Truly here I have seen him who looks after me.” ¹⁴ Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered.

¹⁵ And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. ¹⁶ Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.”

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ge 16:1–16.

BACKGROUND & OTHER STUDY HELPS:

[HAGAR] “Two implications stem from the Hagar account. First, Hagar was singled out by God as one who was very special to him. Two supernatural encounters were given to this one who in the biblical culture would have been classed as an unlikely recipient.”

P. B. Overland, “Hagar,” ed. T. Desmond Alexander and David W. Baker, *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003), 378.

[SARAI & HAGAR] “In the story of Sarai’s complaint against God concerning her barrenness and her consequent suggestion that Abram father a child for her by her Egyptian servant Hagar (accepted practice in the ancient Near East), Sarai appears more concerned with her own cultural disgrace as a childless wife than with the

fulfillment of God's promise of descendants to Abram. When Hagar conceives, Sarai discovers that her plan does not produce the results she had hoped for (Hagar "despises" her), and her selfish motives become more obvious in her harsh treatment of Hagar."

Gordon D. Fee and Robert L. Hubbard Jr., eds., *The Eerdmans Companion to the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2011), 91.

We all think we know best... *better than God...* We perceive the way things should be in our lives *forgetting that He is God and the knower of all things...* a **God who is good and pure...**

OUTLINE:

I. (v1-2a) MY PERCEPTION

"Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. ² And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children."

Earlier in Genesis 15:5-6 God repeated the promise to Abram and Abram believed the Lord God that He would give him and Sarai a son and bless them with many offspring/descendants... and then God became silent for a period.

What do we do in the silent periods of life?

Abram and Sarai reflect what we often do in our own lives in God's silence; when we do not hear the Lord's voice and all we have is the last thing He said to us...

Sarai's comments indicate a perception that God's silence means:

- *The Lord is not working for her Good (God is not completely good)*

- *The Lord is not working efficiently enough to fulfill what He has promised (God is not able alone)*
- *The Lord may have forgotten His promise (God is not Omniscient or Omniscient)*
 - Omniscient- God is all knowing and there is nothing outside of His understanding
 - Omniscient- simply means that God is all wise. You cannot be all all wise without being all knowing as well.
- *The Lord may have changed His mind (God changes and is not perfect)*

[Application]

= When we perceive things are not going as planned we perceive God's has character flaws and that He is a liar

=Sarai and by default Abram did not believe God in His silence and they felt they must help God... when we get in front of God it is no longer God who is leading us!

II. (v2b-4a) MY PLAN

*"...Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her."
 And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. ³ So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife. ⁴ And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived."*

So Sarai and Abram draw up a new plan to help God out and they place Hagar in the middle of the plan... this was not God's direction, but was man's impatient and doubtful move to correct or spur God to action.

- *Any plan other than what God has said is sinful and rebellious towards God*
- *Any plan other than what God has said will cause us trouble and grief*

- *Any plan other than what God has said delays His blessings and the fulfillment of His promise even longer*

[Application]

= When we make alternate plans we are saying we are smarter than God and know better

= When we make alternate plans God must judge or deal with those responses because He is Holy and Just

III. (v4b-6) MY PROBLEM

“And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. ⁵ And Sarai said to Abram, “May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!” ⁶ But Abram said to Sarai, “Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please.” Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her.”

When we make alternate plans we do not always see the hidden effects:

- *Hagar becomes Abram’s 2nd wife and Sarai is no longer Abram’s only focus of affection (feelings of rejection & jealousy)*
- *Hagar does what Sarai had not done for Abram (feelings low worth)*
- *Hagar in her obedience to Sarai and Abram becomes the brunt of Sarai’s anger with God (other innocent people will be affected by our sin of rebellion)*
- *Sarai blame shifts (It’s all Hagar’s fault things are not working out as she desired)*
- *Sarai sees herself as the victim (Sin causes us to be blinded/deceived)*
- *Sarai justifies her actions and Abram endorses further sinful actions against Hagar (Our Sin becomes a spiral of growing sinful behavior)*

[Application]

= When we do not own the problem as our alone it will continue to devour every area of our lives

= When we do not repent and hold one another accountable we will affect everyone around us

IV. (v7-16) GOD'S PROVIDENCE

"The angel of the Lord found her (HAGAR) by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai." The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her." The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude." And the angel of the Lord said to her, "Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the Lord has listened to your affliction. He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen." So she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me." Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered. And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram."

- We find that Hagar was **sought out by the Lord God** (the angel of the Lord is God)
 - **She was not a part of God's covenant people** (Lineage/bloodline that would come through Jacob), but God was giving early indication that there would be a people grafted in when Jesus came
- The Lord commands her to **return to her master Sarai and submit** to her
 - *If she obeyed God would bless her with a similar promise (multiply her offspring through Ishmael)*
 - The Arabs are a vast people today (God honored His promise= Common grace)
- The Lord pronounced that **Ishmael would be a wild warring man**

- *He would war against the people of Jacob (we see this today)*
- (v13) **God looked after Hagar providing for her needs** (shows her specifically grace)
 - *Obedience by Hagar provoked God to bless her*
- (v13-14) Hagar **expresses faith in God verbally**
- (14-16) Hagar **expresses faith in God and true conversion through obedient actions** (she returned to serve under the bitter master Sarai because the Lord commanded it)
 - *When the Lord give true faith to someone who is so undeserving (all of us) there will be repentant actions associated with God's presence*

[Application]

= It doesn't matter who you are or where you come from... when the all seeing God meets you in your despair and calls you by name your only response is to answer Him as your God (have you answered the call)

= It is our responsibility to respond to God's grace with obedience as did HAGAR (does your life match your proclamation to be a Christian)

-----Message from Pastor Michael-----
Church,

It is so easy to try and correct God when we don't know what to do next, but my God is never wrong and is never late. Do you trust him? Abram and Sarai should have been the faithful ones in this story, but Hagar ends up being the obedient party here. Thank God that it's not about who your parents are or any other human gauge to become a follower of Christ, but a faithful God deals with hearts as He sees fit and in spite of our reality.

It seems to be the best angle to see this story through the eyes of Sarai once Jacob has been born... God is always faithful even when I think He was forgotten!

Love in Christ,
Pastor Michael

